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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

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All States

New Leaflet Describes Method of Controlling Red Clover Seed Midge

Red clover seed crops can often be saved from extensive damage or total loss by controlling the clover seed midge, says ________________.
(local authority)

A pocket-size folder recently published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture tells how to protect a clover seed crop from this tiny mosquitolike fly whose young suck the sap from the seed-producing parts of the clover blossoms.

The clover seed midge probably occurs wherever clover is grown in the United States, the folder states, but its damage is of importance only in seed-growing areas since it does not reduce the forage value of a clover crop. Also, it rarely feeds on clovers other than red, and never enough to affect seed production.

The secret of controlling the clover seed midge, explains Mr. ________, rests in removing all clover heads during the period when the spring generation adults are laying their eggs, or removing the flowers before the larvae mature and drop to the ground. It can be controlled rather easily by pasturing, cutting, clipping, and soiling as described in the leaflet. No insecticide is required.

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The life cycle of the clover seed midge and the proper dates for cutting, clipping, and soiling to avoid damage by the insect are described in Leaflet No. 379, entitled "The Clover Seed Midge." A free copy may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a local source).

Note to editors: Most State publication distribution officers have ordered copies of the attached publication from advance notice to them dated September 23, 1954.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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All States

For release after Jan. 17 p.m.

World Agricultural Production Stabilized in 1954: Surpluses in Several Countries

For the first time in 9 years overall world agricultural production did not increase last year as North American output fell slightly and production in the Middle East and Asia failed to maintain its recovery of recent years. Overall decreases were small, however, and South America showed an increase in production not quite sufficient to offset the decreases elsewhere.

A report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, based upon information from its agricultural attachés and other sources abroad, indicates that world output of agricultural products during 1954-55 appears to be almost as large as the record output of the previous year. Crop production, it states, is nearly 2 percent below 1953-54, but production of livestock products has continued to new high levels, nearly offsetting the crop decline.

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Continued large supplies of some agricultural products have led to serious marketing problems in several surplus-producing countries, the report states. As a result, numerous countries have taken steps to increase consumption or bring production more into line with probable consumption and to expand exports.

During 1954, for example, there was a noticeable shift in the world's crop area from foodgrains to cotton, tobacco, and feed crops, and additional shifts appear likely in 1955.

(more)

World prices for agricultural products have remained relatively stable, partly because of a continued high level of demand and partly because of a worldwide tendency of governments to conduct programs aimed at avoiding marked declines in farm prices.

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1955 Wool Marketed After April 1 Will Be Eligible for Incentive Payments

Wool sheared after January 1, 1955, and sold after April 1, 1955, will be eligible for the new wool incentive payments provided for in the National Wool Act of 1954, ________________ (local authority) reminds ______ (area) sheep owners.

Wool producers who shear their sheep between January 1 and April 1 this year and who want their wool to be eligible for incentive payments should be careful to retain ownership of the wool until after April 1, Mr. ________ states. The wool may be stored in a commercial warehouse or consigned for future sale, but the owner will need to retain title during this period if the wool is to be eligible for payments.

Under the National Wool Act of 1954, the Secretary of Agriculture has announced an incentive price of 62 cents per pound for shorn wool, grease basis, for the 1955 marketing year. Payments will be made to producers if the national average price received by all producers of wool falls below the incentive price.

Each producer should sell his wool for the best possible price, Mr. ________________ stresses, because incentive payments will be calculated as a percentage of the individual producer's net sales proceeds. For example, if the incentive price is 20 percent above the national average price of wool sold this year, the payment made to each eligible producer will be 20 percent of his own net sales proceeds for wool. It will not be based on the difference between his own price and the incentive price. In other words, the more a producer gets for his wool, the larger will be his incentive payment.

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USDA 115 (1-55)

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Alfalfa Meal Retains More Vitamin A When Treated With Oil or Animal Fat

U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists report that the loss of carotene (vitamin A) from alfalfa meal can be cut almost in half by simply treating the meal with a fat or oil. Ordinarily, when it is converted into a dry meal and stored, alfalfa loses as much as 50 to 75 percent of this vitamin so important to maintaining animal health.

Earlier work with the Colorado State experiment station and industry showed that alfalfa meal could be helped to hold its carotene content by treatment with an oil or fat containing a commercial antioxidant, a chemical which reduces the action of oxygen upon the meal. More recent work by the USDA scientists indicates that oil or fat alone will produce equally good results if enough is used.

Tests showed that meal treated with 5 percent animal fats retained nearly twice as much carotene as untreated meal. Several vegetable oils gave good results also, but low-cost animal fats are likely to be most economical, the scientists point out, because they are in surplus supply.

Oiling the dried, chopped alfalfa just before it is made into meal also has other advantages. It keeps down dust in dehydrating plants, lessening fire hazards, and employees can work comfortably without dust masks.

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Work at the Department's Western Regional Research Laboratory was tested on a commercial scale in a dehydrating plant. Melted tallow was applied to dry, chopped alfalfa as it moved into a hammermill for grinding and mixing. The resulting meal, containing about 5 percent tallow, still retained 62 percent of the original carotene after 16 weeks' storage at 77° F. Meal with 1.4 percent tallow kept 47 percent of its carotene. Untreated meal kept only 38 percent.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In All States

Fillers

Farmers today are producing 38 percent more products on virtually the same amount of land they farmed just before World War II. Furthermore, this increased output has been produced by fewer farm workers. In 1940, one farm worker could produce enough food for 11 persons. Now, working shorter hours, he can grow food for 18 people. This is a gain of 63 percent in efficiency in 14 years.

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Records show that in 1952 at least 3 farmers out of 5 in the United States obtained some of their farm supplies through cooperatives. These purchases amounted to about $1.9 billion, or about a sixth of the total used by all farmers.

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Research shows that hog producers can save an average of 3 pigs in every 2 litters by using infrared heat lamps during and after farrowing. The lamps are inexpensive--a dollar or so purchase price plus a few cents' worth of electricity a day.

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Cooperative studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Iowa State College show that hogs make faster, more economical gains if they have plenty of fresh water available during freezing weather. During one test, hogs drinking from thermostatically controlled waterers gained an average of 10 pounds more per animal in 6 weeks of freezing temperatures than pigs that had unheated drinking troughs filled by hand.

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In All States

Cure for Rusty Water Depends Upon Its Cause

To overcome rust in the water system, a problem common to many farm and suburban families, it is essential first to determine the cause of the trouble. Rust can be caused by several different types of water and different conditions occurring frequently in ______________ (State), explains __________________________ (State or local authority).

Rust that appears only in the hot water system can probably be overcome by replacing corroded piping with copper tubing and installing a glass-lined hot-water tank equipped with magnesium electrodes.

A possible solution, if rust occurs in both hot and cold water, is to install equipment designed to aerate and filter the water. Or, where a difficult iron problem exists, rust can often be overcome by the installation of a commercial iron remover unit.

Any one of these solutions calls for a considerable investment. That's why it is usually economical in the long run to call in an expert and have a proper analysis of your problem before you take steps to remedy it, ________________________ suggests.*

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*Note to Editors: You may be able to suggest where such an analysis can be obtained in your State at reasonable cost.

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In All States

Slight Rise (or Drop) in Value of ____________ Farmland Reported by USDA
(State)

Prices of farmland in ____________ (State) rose (or fell) ___ percent in the 4 months ending November 1, 1954, according to a nationwide report on the farm real estate market just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In general, prices of farmland strengthened in the central Corn Belt and some States along the eastern seaboard, while in most other States they drifted moderately lower. New high price levels were reached in 6 States, and in 16 other States values were within 5 percent of their previous highs. Largest declines were in the mountain and Pacific coast regions where farm real estate values in November averaged 15 percent lower than peak levels.

Most of the moderate change in land values that occurred in individual States was credited to local and regional differences in weather, crop outturns, and local supply-demand situations.

In the northern Corn Belt, generally favorable weather in the 1954 crop year, slightly higher prices than a year earlier for several important crops, and good returns from hogs led to renewed interest in purchase of farm real estate. In some Southeastern and South Central States, drought, lower farm income, and inability of many prospective buyers to meet lenders' requirements resulted in a dull and inactive land market at slightly lower prices. Wyoming and Colorado showed the largest declines in farmland values, reflecting the severe drought in parts of these States.

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Note to Editors: Percentage change for your State is given on the map on the cover of the attached report. Additional details about your State and region are given in the report.

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In States of Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

Barberry's Role in Spreading Wheat Stem Rust Described

Complete eradication of the common European barberry from northern grain-producing States cannot be overstressed as an important link in developing more permanent controls for stem rust of wheat, declares ____________________.
(local authority)
Other, more immediate, control measures are to grow resistant varieties of wheat* and to use cultural practices encouraging an early and healthy wheat crop, according to Mr. ____________________.

A recent report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture describing the struggle to control Race 15B, the most destructive and widespread rust of wheat ever found in North America, points to the disastrous role of the barberry in the development and spread of this serious wheat disease, says Mr. ______________.

New races of rust are constantly evolving on barberry bushes, making it exceedingly difficult to maintain rust-resistant varieties of grain. This is illustrated by thehistory of Race 15B, which destroyed 75 percent of the durum (macaroni) wheat crop in 1954, in addition to causing heavy losses in some bread wheat areas.

Race 15B was first discovered on a barberry bush in Webster County, Iowa, in 1939, according to the USDA report. In 1948, it was found near barberry bushes in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Virginia. By 1950 the new race had become independent of the barberry as a host and had spread to the wheatfields of the Southern States. Quickly multiplying in the mild climates of

(more)

Texas and northern Mexico, where it does not need the barberry, the tiny spores that cause the disease were carried back on prevailing south winds to important grain-producing areas in the North. Meanwhile, tests for resistance had revealed that every commercial variety of wheat then grown in the United States and Canada was susceptible to the new race of rust. This included varieties developed especially for resistance to other races of rust.

At least 8 years are required to produce an acceptable and resistant new variety of wheat. Several wheats of foreign origin have been found to be resistant to Race 15B, but they are commercially unacceptable in the United States. By a necessarily slow breeding process their capacity to resist stem rust is now being bred into new high-quality varieties. Selkirk, developed in Canada, and Willett, produced cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, are the only resistant bread wheat varieties now available. No satisfactory durum wheat resistant to Race 15B has yet been developed.

Meanwhile, the evolution of new and equally destructive races of stem rust, against which we have no defense, is always a possibility as long as barberry bushes are permitted to grow in northern grain-producing areas, stresses ______________________. (This does not apply to the ornamental Japanese varieties of barberry sold for home use, because these do not harbor wheat stem rust.)

A Federal-State program of barberry eradication begun in 1918 continues to operate in 18 of the principal grain-growing States where barberry is still a problem--Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Localized barberry eradication programs are also conducted in grain-producing areas of Idaho, Kansas, New York, and Oregon. In 1953, about 12 million barberry bushes were destroyed by applying ammonium sulfamate to the cut-off canes, or by spraying with herbicidal chemicals. In Virginia farmers reported a 68-percent increase in wheat production following local barberry eradication.

*Note to Editors: You may wish to list resistant varieties of wheat now being recommended for your State.

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For North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, Idaho, Oregon, and
Washington

Spring Wheat Acreage Allotments Can Be Obtained From ASC Committees

Every farmer in ___________ (area) who is planning to grow spring wheat this year would do well to check the acreage allotment for his farm with the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee before planting, says ______________________________ (local authority).

Wheat planted in excess of the acreage allotment may not be permitted to reach the stage of maturity where it can be harvested for grain if the grower wishes to avoid marketing quota penalties and take full advantage of the price support program for wheat.

"Any wheat acreage in addition to your allotment which cannot be used profitably for hay and grazing, or for protecting land from erosion, is a pure waste of seed, fuel, labor, and land," declares _____________.

The ASC office will notify growers of the date by which their excess acreage must be turned under as green manure, used for silage, pastured, or cut for hay, if it is not to be counted as "wheat acreage" in determining compliance under the program. Growers who do not dispose of excess acreage by the announced time will be subject to a marketing penalty of 45 percent of the parity price per bushel as of May 1 and calculated on the average yield for the farm applied to the excess acreage. The penalty will apply to any grain marketed in 1955 until the full amount is paid.

Compliance with acreage allotments is also a legal requirement for eligibility to receive payments under the Agricultural Conservation Program, ________________________ reminds.

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*Special to Extension Editors

1 States

U. S. Forest Service Marks Its Golden Anniversary

Fifty years ago this month (February 1905) President Theodore Roosevelt signed the act of Congress which established the United States Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture "to maintain and increase the productivity of forest lands everywhere in the country."

The half century since has been an era of progress in conserving our forest resources.

Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the Forest Service, was an early, enthusiastic promoter of the "sustained yield" idea, or the theory that forests could be handled as a renewable crop. This was a relatively new concept in this country in 1905. Now it is a widely accepted approach to forest management.

During the past 50 years an effective Federal-State partnership has developed, leading to increasingly better protection for all forest resources and better use of forest products. In cooperation with 39 State* forestry departments the Forest Service takes part in providing technical assistance to owners of private forests and distributing planting stock. Last year 90 cooperating State nurseries supplied 500 million forest seedlings to private landowners. Organized fire protection has been provided for 374 million acres of forest--all but 50 million acres of our total forest land. Great progress has also been made in detecting and controlling destructive insects and diseases of forest trees.

Forest Service research has led to many new uses for wood and forest products. A few examples are production of kraft paper and newsprint from southern pine, lightweight structural sandwich wood used in the mosquito bomber of World War II, and a new pulping process adaptable to hardwoods of otherwise little commercial value.

The Forest Service also manages 181 million acres of national forests containing untold wealth in timber, rangeland, wildlife, water, and recreational resources.

*Note to Editors: This includes all States except the following, some of which carry out an independent forestry program: Arizona, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Wyoming.

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In All States

Agricultural Research Seeks To Solve Problems Caused by Hardpan, Soil Compaction

Problems caused by hardpan or other types of soil compaction are being tackled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and cooperating State and private agencies around the country,* according to ______________________.
(local authority)

It has been known for many years that compacted soils interfere with plant root growth and penetration of moisture into the soil, says __________. But no satisfactory methods have been developed for dealing with the problem. Subsoiling has proved of little value, and though deep tillage has increased crop yields in certain years on some soils, benefits did not last or were not obtained on difficult claypan soils.

Compacted soil layers may be caused by tractor and heavy implement traffic over cultivated land, or they may develop from conditions within the soil itself. As traffic has increased over cultivated land through mechanized farming and more cultivation, the problem has been steadily growing.

It is hoped that research will lead to some practical methods of overcoming soil compaction.

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* You may be able to report some research taking place in your own State.

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All States

Waste Product May Be Economical Source of Lime

"Brown mud," a waste product resulting from the process of extracting aluminum from bauxite, is a good source of agricultural lime, according to a report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Greenhouse experiments at the Department's Beltsville, Md., research center showed that brown mud is as effective as ground limestone or hydrated lime in correcting soil acidity. Growth and yield of sweetclover in initially acid soil limed with brown mud were excellent--equal to results from the regular liming materials.

Brown mud contains about 47 percent lime, say the USDA scientists. Aluminum extracting plants now wind up each year with about a half-million tons of this material in waste ponds near their plants.

Americans Eat Better at No Greater Cost

The kind of food that cost 25 percent of a typical family's take-home pay in the 1920's could be bought today for 17 percent of the average family income, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

American families continue to spend about one-fourth of their income for food, just as they did in the twenties, but they are getting a greater variety of foods with higher nutritive value. Modern diets contain more of the protective foods--such as meat, milk, eggs, fruit, green vegetables--and many more items are purchased in ready-to-eat or ready-to-cook form.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In All States

Fillers

Record-breaking supplies of canned sweet corn and canned snap beans make them particularly good buys this season. Weather last summer, though unfavorable for many other crops, was just right for these two vegetables. The result is good quality at low prices.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with industry in drawing the consumer's attention to these plentiful foods. Available supplies of canned corn add up to 38½ million cases for this season--9 million cases more than average annual use. And supplies of canned snap beans add up to nearly 32 million cases--about 12½ million more than we ordinarily use.

Research has shown that consumers are willing to pay more for potatoes graded for the purpose to which they are best suited--baking, boiling, or frying.

Of the total quantity of potatoes used for human consumption in this country, about 15 percent are now sold as a prepared or partially prepared food product--as compared with 2 percent in 1940. About two-thirds of these commercially processed potatoes reach the consumer in the form of potato chips.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In All States

Several Effective Fly-Bait Materials Now on the Market

When flies did the seemingly impossible and developed a resistance to the modern miracle insecticide DDT, agricultural scientists scurried back to their laboratories to find another and better method of killing the familiar pest. Fly baits, combining an old principle with the use of new chemical insecticides, are proving to be the best means of meeting this problem.

Several fly-bait materials that are effective in killing resistant flies are now on the market, reports ________________.

Malathion and diazinon, two new insecticides that are good for this purpose, may be purchased separately or in prepared fly baits, according to __ ______________. Either way, directions for use will be supplied by the manufacturer and should be carefully followed, says ________________.

Another effective chemical, Bayer 13/59, is available only in a prepared bait (Dipterex).

All these materials are poisonous to human beings and animals and should be handled with due precautions, warns ________________. Diazinon is currently not approved for use in dairy barns.

Several other chemicals have given excellent experimental results but are not yet available commercially, according to ________________.

Note: A copy of this release is also being sent to State extension entomologists, for their information.

USDA 376 (2-55)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In All States

More Milk From Fewer Cows, Continued U. S. Trend in 1954

Milk production per cow in the United States broke all previous records in 1954, according to figures released this month by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Output per cow last year averaged 5,512 pounds, nearly one thousand pounds higher than a decade earlier. As a result, total milk production on U. S. farms in 1954 reached an alltime peak of 123.5 billion pounds from 22.4 million cows, as compared with 117 billion pounds from 25.6 million cows on U. S. farms in 1944.

In __________*, __________ cows produced __________ pounds of milk in
(State)
1954, or an average of __________ pounds per cow, as compared with the national average of 5,512 pounds.

This compares with 1953 production in this State of __________ pounds of milk from __________ cows, or an average of __________ pounds per cow.

Highest production per cow was achieved by the State of California--an average of 8,410 pounds per cow in 1954. The State producing the greatest quantity of milk is Wisconsin--16,550,000,000 pounds in 1954.

*Note to Editor: Figures for your State are given in table 3 on page 5 of the attached report. You may like to report some other statistics for your State included elsewhere in this report.

USDA 405 (2-55)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In All States

New Beltsville Broiler Approaches the Ideal of Chicken Breeders

Chicken breeders at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., research center have been working for a number of years to develop a broiler chicken that might be considered "ideal" from the viewpoints of both the producer and the consumer. The Beltsville broiler which they have developed may soon be as famous as the Beltsville Small White turkey.

The "ideal" which the Beltsville scientists set for themselves is a bird with light-colored flesh and good shape--broad, meaty chest and plump legs. It must grow rapidly, feather out quickly, be easy to dress, produce a maximum amount of meat in a 10-week growing period, and lay more eggs annually than other meat-type birds.

The New Hampshire met some of these requirements, but its feathers were dark and its shape and egg-laying capacity were something short of desired standards.

In their search for a better bird, the scientists developed a new light-fleshed breed to cross with the New Hampshire. The new breed is a Silver Cornish, developed from a long line of ancestors including White Wyandottes, Light Sussex, Rhode Island Reds, Dark Cornish, and Columbians.

When the Silver Cornish is crossed with the New Hampshire the best characteristics of both parents are reproduced--but only in the first generation. So the Beltsville broiler is not a breed but a crossbreed. The Beltsville scientists have spent 5 years improving the two basic breeds, until birds produced by crossbreeding the two have actually surpassed their original "ideal."

(more)

Now producer demand for the new Silver Cornish is greater than the supply. Available eggs of this breed are being sold to breeders and distributed to State experiment stations. The chicks are crossed with purebred New Hampshires to produce the Beltsville broiler.

Meantime the Beltsville men are continuing to breed, select, and increase the desirable characteristics of the foundation stock. One of these days, you'll find these superior broilers at your corner market.

Note to Editors: Glossy prints of a dressed Beltsville broiler and a live Silver Cornish can be obtained free of charge for publication use only by writing the Division of Photography, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others can obtain these photographs, 8 by 10 inches in size, at a price of 60 cents each.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

Livestock and Poultry Numbers on U. S. Farms Up 3 Percent From Last Year

U. S. farmers increased their holdings of livestock and poultry by 3 percent during 1954, according to a report recently issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Increases were greatest in number of hogs; somewhat less in cattle, chickens, and turkeys. Numbers of sheep and lambs, as well as horses and mules were down from a year ago.

Despite overall increases, total numbers of livestock and poultry on hand this year were 7 percent below the peak numbers on U. S. farms in 1944, the USDA report states. But production per animal, and therefore total production from animals, reached record or near record levels last year.

Previous records were surpassed in the number of pigs saved per litter, the egg-laying rate for farm chickens, milk production per cow, and weight per fleece for shorn wool. The 1954 calf crop apparently was the largest on record, the lamb crop showed an increase over the previous year, and the pig crop was up sharply from a postwar low in 1953.

The following table* gives the numbers of different classes of livestock on ________________ (State) farms on January 1 of this year, comparative figures for January 1, 1954, and the average numbers from 1944 through 1953.

(more)

Livestock and Poultry on ____________ Farms
(State)

	1955	1954	1944-53
All cattle and calves			
All sheep and lambs			
All hogs and pigs			
Horses and colts			
Mules and mule colts			
All chickens			
All turkeys			

*Note to Editors: These figures for your State are given in the attached report, on pages 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
to Extension
Editors

In All States

One Quarter Nation's Schools Now Participate in School Milk Program

By mid-January, 42,000 schools were participating in the Special School Milk Program provided by Congress in the Agricultural Act of 1954.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, general administrator of the school milk program, reports that 10,000 more schools joined the program between the end of November and mid-January. About one-fourth of the schools eligible to join--all nonprofit schools of high school grade or under--are now participating.

Milk consumption in participating schools increased during November to more than 90 million half pints, which was 55 percent over their normal consumption of 58 million half pints.

The Department of Agriculture estimates that over 3 billion pounds of milk would be needed in a year to supply every American child with a half pint of milk at school each day. Less than half of this amount is now consumed in school, and it is being consumed by far less than half of the schoolchildren. At present, out of 34 million children enrolled in school, it is estimated that about 11 or 12 million drink some milk at school.

In providing the School Milk Program, Congress had a twofold purpose. It intended to step up consumption of abundant supplies of fluid milk and to encourage schoolchildren to drink more of this healthful beverage. Surveys show that calcium is the nutrient most likely to be lacking in diets, and among everyday foods, milk is the most economical source of calcium.

The Special School Milk Program operates through State and local school officials. Participating schools purchase the milk locally and serve it at any time they consider best for encouraging extra consumption. Schools are reimbursed for a portion of the cost of all milk over and above the amount served in the same school the previous year. Schools that have not previously served milk are reimbursed for part of the cost of all milk sold. The law provides that up to $50,000,000 annually of Commodity Credit Corporation funds can be used for this purpose.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

APR 1 1955
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Farmers and Grain Handlers Asked To Help in Locating New Grain Pest

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and State agricultural officials are asking farmers and grain handlers to help them locate an insect pest which is capable of causing great damage to stored grain if it succeeds in establishing itself in this country.

The khapra beetle, a native of India, Ceylon, and Malaya, is new to this country. It has been found in stored grain in California, Arizona, and New Mexico, but it may have spread unnoticed to other parts of the country. Agriculture officials hope to find it and wipe it out before it becomes firmly established all through our grain-producing areas.

The insect can be spread from place to place in grain, feed, seed, or used sacks. It will probably only be found indoors, in warehouses, storage bins, feed mills, or in railway cars or trucks used to transport grain.

The khapra beetle is usually first noticed because of the presence of its fuzzy larvae, 1/8 inch long, or their cast skins, in clusters around the corners of grain bins, or in used sacks. The beetle itself is only 1/16 inch long, and is harder to detect, though it can usually be found in the vicinity of the larvae and their cast skins. Like the rice and granary weevils, it can attack sound kernels of grain.

______________________________ suggests that, if you find unidenti-
(State authority or county agent)
fiable, small fuzzy larvae or their skins in your grain, you may be able to play an important part in locating new infestations of the khapra beetle so that they can be destroyed before the pest spreads farther. Take specimens of both larvae and beetles to your county agent. He can help you forward them to the proper authorities for identification.

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Chemical Tested by USDA Inhibits Potato Sprouting

Another problem in maintaining the high quality of agricultural products during the marketing process is yielding to new methods developed through marketing research.

Recent tests by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service indicate that there is an effective solution to the problem of sprouting in late-crop Irish potatoes near the end of their marketing season.

Sprouts often develop on table stock potatoes--particularly in shipping--to such an extent that it not only detracts from their general appearance but significantly reduces their value. This has long been a problem to the potato industry, and its solution would benefit everyone from the potato producer to the housewife who buys potatoes for her table.

The USDA tests, conducted by the Red River Valley Potato Research Center at East Grand Forks, Minn., showed that sprouting in Triumph and Pontiac potatoes could be checked successfully for a month, at an average temperature of 59 degrees Fahrenheit. These results were obtained by treating the potatoes with a sprout inhibitor consisting of a low concentration of methyl ester of alpha naphthalene-acetic acid (commonly known as MENA) in a water and wax emulsion. MENA is effective at a rate of 17 milligrams to 1 kilogram of potatoes. Very successful on unsprouted potatoes, this treatment is also satisfactory for desprouted tubers.

Other chemicals tested were either less effective in retarding sprouting or caused some injury to the potatoes.

(more)

Considerable research--dating back to 1939--has been devoted to the development of a sprout inhibitor for potatoes. At that early date, MENA was found to be effective for this purpose, but its use in an inert dust carrier developed at that time has not been widely adopted by the industry.

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Livestock Producers Lose Money When Animals Are Injured En Route to Market

Livestock producers could increase their profits by cutting injuries to animals en route to market.

This observation grew out of an analysis by the Farmer Cooperative Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture of loss and damage to livestock delivered by a number of cooperative shipping associations to three Wisconsin markets.

Most producers seek to protect themselves from losses by insuring their animals for the haul from farm to market, the FCS report states. But often they do not realize that the cost of this protection--either through regular insurance or, in the case of cooperatives, through contributions to "sinking funds"--is based upon transit loss experience. Faulty practices in handling animals result in unnecessarily high charges for insurance protection.

Producers also lose money, the report indicates, through lower prices at the market. Bruise damage not detected until after slaughter represents a loss to the processor, and buyers often discount stock from a producer with a poor record on bruise losses. A producer with such a record may find himself "a last resort" source, to be used only when meat supplies cannot be obtained elsewhere.

The report suggests that transit damages and losses could be cut substantially if livestock producers would: (1) avoid exciting animals before shipment, if possible sorting and assembling a day in advance, (2) prevent livestock from over-eating or drinking immediately prior to shipment,

(more)

(3) load animals carefully and unhurriedly, using good loading equipment and avoiding use of clubs, whips, or canes, and (4) choose a trucker with a low loss record and insist upon careful handling.

The Wisconsin study revealed that the rate of death and crippling rose in proportion to the length of haul, and losses were almost twice as high in winter as in summer. This applied to all classes of livestock.

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Americans Consume Larger Supplies of Eggs and Poultry Meat

Total U. S. production of poultry meat has more than doubled and that of eggs has almost doubled since 1935-39, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Per capita consumption of chickens, turkeys, and eggs has also risen to new heights, setting a record high in 1954. We consumed eggs last year at a rate of about 410 per person; chicken meat at a rate of 23.7 pounds per person on an oven-ready basis, and turkey at the rate of 4.6 pounds per person. This represented increases over pre-war consumption per person of 38 percent for eggs, 80 percent for chicken meat, and 110 percent for turkey.

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In All States

Wool Producers Will Need Bills of Sale in Applying for Incentive Payments

Bills of sale are important documents this year for wool producers who wish to apply for shorn wool incentive payments and lamb and yearling payments provided for in the National Wool Act of 1954, says ______________________ (ASC chairman or ____________. county agent)

For incentive payments on shorn wool, the usual bill of sale showing clearly the net proceeds to the producer at his local marketing or shipping point will give the information required in filing applications with the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office, Mr. _________ explains.

For payments on lambs and yearlings, producers must make certain that the bills of sale state clearly that the lambs or yearlings were purchased for slaughter and had full wool pelts. A full wool pelt will mean one that either has never been shorn, or if it has been shorn, has a one and one-half inch growth of wool. The sellers will need to have owned the lambs or yearlings for at least 30 days prior to their sale.

To be eligible for incentive payments under the new program, wool must be marketed on or after April 1, 1955. Applications may be filed with the ASC office any time after the wool is sold, according to ______________. The percentage to be paid on shorn wool and the rate of the lamb and yearling payment per hundred weight will be determined in mid-1956 when the average price received by growers for shorn wool sold in the 1955 marketing year is reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Payments to producers will be started about that time.

Payments on shorn wool will be based upon the percentage difference between the 62-cent incentive price and the national average price received for shorn wool. Payment to an individual producer will be this percentage applied to the price he received for his wool, so highest payments will go to those who sell their wool for the best price. Payment rate will be same for all lambs and yearlings.

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In Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota

Class II Durum Wheat May be Planted Beyond Acreage Allotment in 4-State Area

Farmers in designated counties of Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota, where Class II durum wheat was produced for commercial food products in one or more of the last ten years may grow this type of wheat in excess of the present wheat acreage allotments this year, according to a report received here from the Commodity Stabilization Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

An amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, recently approved by the President, provides that farmers in the area to be designated may plant Class II durum on acreage diverted from other classes of wheat and other crops. Individual farmers will not need a history of durum production, but they must grow the wheat in a designated county. Durum acreage planted under this provision will not be used in determining future county, State, or farm wheat acreage allotments. Growers are cautioned that Red durum will not qualify under this program.

Eligible counties will be announced soon by the Department of Agriculture. The program will be administered by State and County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees.

Note to Editors: Announcement of designated counties will be air mailed to you as soon as it is available.

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In All States

Farm Fillers

If the population of the United States continues to increase at its present rate and consumption of meat remains at 151.4 pounds a person--the 1952-54 average--it will take 3-1/3 million more cattle, 2-1/3 million more sheep, and 9 million more pigs to supply the market in 1962. That's an increase of 10 percent required in the next 7 years.

At current crop yields it would take an additional 20 million acres over that used in 1953 to provide feed for this extra livestock. It would require 10 million more acres of hay and pasture and 10 million more acres of feed grains--oats, barley, and grain sorghums. Much of this acreage can be met by shifting from crops now in surplus. The rest will have to be met through increased yields per acre.

A few years ago it took four pounds of feed to produce a pound of broiler chicken meat. This has been cut to less than three. And researchers are now shooting at a target of 2½ pounds of feed per pound of broiler.

Thirty years ago it took five pounds of feed to produce a pound of pork. Research has shown how this can be cut to four.

For more efficient livestock production, farmers need better feed and animals that can make more efficient use of it.

Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a talk by Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, in Athens, Ga.

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In All States

Farm Fillers

As Americans learn more of the value of vitamins, proteins, iron, and calcium, they are shifting from high calorie foods to more of the protective foods. This is shown in a comparison of our diets in 1953-54 with those of 1935-39. During the past two years, each of us ate an average of 18 percent more daily products (excluding butter), 26 percent more eggs, 27 percent more meat, poultry, and fish, and 16 percent more citrus fruit and tomatoes. We ate 26 percent less potatoes and sweet potatoes and 21 percent fewer grain products.

The biggest increase in our diets has been in meat, poultry, and fish. Today, we're eating more than a fourth more of these high protein foods per person than we ate 20 years ago.

Modern technology has brought improvements not only in production of food but in its distribution. Thirty years ago the groceries we could buy were largely governed by the seasons and limited by the production of farms in the surrounding countryside. Today, thanks to advances in refrigeration and transportation, it's no longer a novelty for the housewife to serve foods grown thousands of miles away.

Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a talk by Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

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All States

Producers Average 12 Cents More per CWT for Bulk Milk as Tank Collection Increases

Bulk milk handling--replacing the conventional milk can with refrigerated tanks on the farm and insulated tank trucks for collecting and hauling milk from producer to plant--promises to become one of the most important basic changes in the history of dairying.

This is one of the conclusions growing out of a study by the Farmer Cooperative Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture of bulk milk handling systems now in operation. Single copies of an article summarizing the FCS findings can be obtained free of charge from the Farmer Cooperative Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for Reprint 75.

Producers receive an average of slightly over 12 cents per hundredweight more for milk collected from refrigerated tanks than the average in their area for milk collected in conventional cans, the FCS study shows. Some of this is gained in the form of premiums offered by milk plants for bulk milk, and may represent a subsidy from the plant to speed transition to the new system rather than actual economies thus far due to the changeover. Nevertheless, the FCS concluded that bulk milk handling offers considerable promise of eventually increasing returns to the producer, the hauler, and the plant through lower costs, better milk quality, and expanded markets. Benefits are realized more quickly when the changeover is rapid and well integrated among producers, haulers, and plants.

The bulk tank system of collecting milk first appeared among large dairy farms in California about 15 years ago. Since then it has gradually spread to

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other parts of the country. In mid-1953, approximately 275 milk-receiving plants in 30 States were obtaining deliveries from over 600 farm tank trucks serving about 6,200 farms equipped with bulk milk. This represents roughly about 1 percent of all milk plants and commercial dairy farms in the United States.

The FCS survey indicated that bulk milk handling, like most other farm mechanization, lends considerably greater economic advantage to larger volume operations. Among plants included in the FCS survey, bulk shippers averaged 1,015 pounds per day, grade A can shippers averaged 525 pounds, and ungraded can shippers averaged 210 pounds. A 300-gallon bulk tank was the most common-sized unit in use on the farms surveyed. One of the difficulties for the small producer is the large cash investment required to install a refrigerated farm tank for bulk collection.

Only a little more than 10 percent of all bulk milk shippers surveyed were equipped with milking parlors and pipeline milking systems. The great majority had adapted their bulk tanks to conventional stanchion-type barns and machine-bucket milkers.

About 75 percent of all plants surveyed indicated that average farm-to-plant bulk hauling rates were lower than average can hauling rates. The savings ranged from 2 to 20 cents per hundredweight, the most common figure being 5 cents. These hauling-rate savings combined with plant premiums brought the average direct-cash benefits to producers to slightly over 12 cents per hundredweight of milk.

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All States

Farm Fillers

Only about a third of the farms in the United States are mortgaged and most of these for only a small part of their value, according to a study by farm finance economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The mortgage load is heaviest on smaller and less valuable farms, the study showed. Farms with mortgages equaling less than 10 percent of their value averaged about 320 acres in size, but farms mortgaged for 50 percent or more of their value averaged only 130 to 140 acres in size. Also the average value per acre tended to be lower for highly indebted farms.

Mortgages on the smaller, and less valuable, farms are probably paid off more slowly and they remain higher in relation to the total value of the farm, the economists concluded.

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About 350 plant diseases do extensive damage to farm crops each year. Added to this are the ravages of approximately 700 insect pests and the competition offered by hundreds of aggressive weeds. Total damage to farm crops by these pests amounts to about $8.3 billion dollars annually. If losses in farm animals and animal products from diseases, parasites, and insects are considered, it adds up to a total cost to farmers of about $13 billion each year. These losses have been estimated on the basis of current prices and assume that there would be no decrease in prices because of larger supplies.

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In All States

Research Points the Way to Higher Beef Yields From Mountain Meadows

Beef production on mountain meadows can be nearly doubled by substituting for ordinary methods of management a combination of practices worked out through research by the Colorado State Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, reports ________________________ (local authority).

The practices include (1) use of fertilizer--principally nitrogen--on the meadows, (2) proper timing of harvests, and (3) better control of irrigation water. The findings developed over a 4-year period should apply to about 3½ million acres lying between 6,000 and 9,000 feet above sea level in 11 Western States, says ________________________.

Fields treated with 100 pounds of nitrogen early in the spring and another 100 pounds in early July produced 4 tons of hay and 606 pounds of beef per acre. Fertilizer was used along with water control and timing of harvest. Where fertilizer was not used, yields were only 2.4 tons of hay and 321 pounds of beef per acre. Use of phosphorus--either alone or with nitrogen--gave little result in hay or beef yields.

Proper harvest timing--an early cut late in June and a second cut in August--gave better quality hay than the traditional late-summer cut. Tonnage ran about the same, but two-cut harvesting boosted protein content to 14 percent as compared with about 9 percent for late-cut hay.

In two winter feeding tests, calves fed high-protein, early-cut hay gained nearly a pound a day as compared with half a pound for those fed low-protein, late-cut hay. Protein content ranged from 1.6 pounds in early-cut hay to only 0.5 pound in the late-cut hay.

Higher yields and better hay also resulted from controlled irrigation. Intermittent sprinkling gave hay yields exceeding 4 tons per acre, as compared with 3.2 tons under continuous flooding. Crude protein yields were nearly double the 628 pounds per acre produced by flooding.

County agricultural agents can help owners of mountain meadows to adapt these findings to their own soil conditions, says ________________________.

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In All States

More and Better Blueberries in Prospect as Scientists Breed New Varieties

Blueberries may one day rival strawberries in the size and importance of the crop, as agricultural science makes available more improved varieties and better methods of growing them.

That's the prediction of the blueberry breeders at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., Research Center. They are crossing commercial varieties with some of our native species to develop larger berries with greater vigor, better flavor, disease resistance, tolerance to drought and heat, and greater geographical range.

The best varieties among those developed in the past 5 years, according to the USDA scientists, are Earliblue, Ivanhoe, Bluecrop, Berkeley, Herbert, and Coville for the North, and canker-resistant Angola, Wolcott, Croatan, and Murphy for the South.

Recently developed knowledge about the chromosome structure of plants has opened new possibilities in the crossing of native and commercial species, and the scientists look for early success in producing still better varieties for commercial production.

Investigations at the New York and Oregon State experiment stations indicate that highbush blueberries will thrive on soil only slightly acid if they are fertilized with ammonium sulfate. This should open great areas of less-acid soil to blueberry culture.

New weed-control methods worked out at the Delaware State experiment station, using the chemical CMU, and a power rotary hoe method developed by private industry should lower the costs of production. Control of mummyberry disease with the chemicals ferbam, ziram, or calcium cyanimide, and the successful use of parathion against several insect pests, will also help to make blueberries pay.

Blueberries are now grown commercially on approximately 10,000 acres from Maine to Georgia and in Michigan, Washington, and Oregon. The crop is worth $3½ to $4 million a year. This leaves a long way to go in overtaking the $85 million annual strawberry crop.

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Good Lawn Requires Fertilizer

Adequate fertilizer--especially nitrogen--is one of the basic requirements for a fine, healthy lawn, says U. S. Department of Agriculture grass specialist J. C. Harper (or a local authority).

No grass, regardless of how superior or how well it is adapted to its situation, can be expected to compete successfully with weeds and insects and to stand up under heat, drought, and other trying conditions if it is not properly fed, according to ____ ________.

Cool-season grasses such as bluegrass and red fescue, well adapted to the northern United States, require from 4 to 8 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet each year. Preferably this should be divided into three applications; one in the fall and two in the spring, or two in the fall and one in the spring.

Organic fertilizers, such as cow manure, or inorganic chemical fertilizers will supply the needed nitrogen. In either case it is best to know the approximate nitrogen content of the material used, suggests ______________, so you can estimate the amount of actual nitrogen you are applying.

Inorganic chemical fertilizers are satisfactory for fall or early spring application. Organic fertilizer is better for a late spring application when the grasses have come out of their dormant period and are beginning to make rapid growth.

Late spring application of fertilizer is not recommended if crabgrass is a problem. Once the crabgrass gets a start, any further fertilization will feed it as well as the cultivated grasses, says ______________.

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In Ala., Ariz., Ark., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Miss., Mo., N. Mex., N. C., S. C., Okla., Tenn., Texas, and Va.

Southern Lawn Grasses Benefit From Light Applications of Fertilizer Throughout Summer

Here's an idea for applying fertilizer to your lawn in such a way as to keep it green and healthy all summer long, suggested by U. S. Department of Agriculture grass specialist J. C. Harper (or a local authority). Instead of giving the grass a heavy dose of food in the spring and then forgetting it until fall or the next spring, try giving your turf a light meal every few weeks throughout the summer.

These light applications of fertilizer can be put on between clippings and the grass will benefit from the plant nutrients made available more evenly during its heaviest growth period, says ______________.

The warm-season grasses best adapted to ______________ (State) --such as Bermuda-grass, the zoysias, carpetgrass, St. Augustine grass, centipede grass*-make their maximum growth when the temperatures range between 85 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. It is during this period that they make the most use of available nutrients, or suffer most from lack of nutrients--especially nitrogen.

Bermuda-grass is an especially heavy nitrogen feeder, requiring about 12 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year for healthy growth. St. Augustine grass and centipede grass can get along with about 6 pounds, while zoysia and carpetgrass need somewhere between 8 and 10 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.

When all the nitrogen is applied at once or in a few heavy spring or fall applications, it tends to leach out of the soil before the grass is able to make full use of it. As a precaution against burning the grass, it is beneficial to sprinkle the lawn after an application of chemical fertilizer, or to apply the fertilizer when rain is expected, suggests ______________.

*Note to Editors: List grasses best adapted to your State.

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Good Lawn Requires Fertilizer

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No grass, regardless of how superior or how well it is adapted to its situation, can be expected to compete successfully with weeds and insects and to stand up under heat, drought, and other trying conditions if it is not properly fed, according to ____ __________.

Cool-season grasses such as bluegrass and red fescue, well adapted to the northern United States, require from 4 to 8 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet each year. Preferably this should be divided into three applications; one in the fall and two in the spring, or two in the fall and one in the spring.

Organic fertilizers, such as cow manure, or inorganic chemical fertilizers will supply the needed nitrogen. In either case it is best to know the approximate nitrogen content of the material used, suggests ______________, so you can estimate the amount of actual nitrogen you are applying.

Inorganic chemical fertilizers are satisfactory for fall or early spring application. Organic fertilizer is better for a late spring application when the grasses have come out of their dormant period and are beginning to make rapid growth.

Late spring application of fertilizer is not recommended if crabgrass is a problem. Once the crabgrass gets a start, any further fertilization will feed it as well as the cultivated grasses, says ______________.

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Merion Bluegrass Should Be Planted Alone or With Other Bluegrasses

The new Merion bluegrass is a superior cool-season grass, but it will not compete successfully with bentgrasses or the creeping fescues, says U. S. Department of Agriculture grass specialist J. C. Harper (or a local authority).

The relatively expensive Merion bluegrass seed should be planted alone, or mixed only with Kentucky bluegrass seed, on a newly prepared seedbed. If it is overseeded in an established lawn or planted in combination with seeds of other type grasses, the Merion bluegrass will be crowded out within a year or two, says Dr. Harper. This advice is based upon experience in trial plots at the Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., plant industry station.

Planted alone or in combination with Kentucky bluegrass, the new Merion bluegrass has given excellent results at Beltsville in producing a thick, healthy turf. It is superior to other bluegrasses in its tolerance to heat and drought, and it will stand somewhat closer clipping. It is also less subject to helminthosporium leaf spot, a disease common to bluegrass.

Bluegrass should be fertilized with 4 to 8 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet each year, according to Dr. Harper. This can be divided into 2 or 3 applications and applied in spring or fall.

A cool-season grass, Merion bluegrass makes its maximum growth when the temperatures range from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. During the hot months of summer growth is less active, and bluegrass should not be clipped closer than 1½ inches if it is to stand up well under the hot sun and possible drought of midsummer.

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In All States

Newly-developed chemical weed killers are very useful in helping to control some of the broadleaved pests common in lawns. But at best they are only a supplement to good lawn management, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture weed control specialists (or local authorities).

The soundest way to build a weed-free turf, say ______________ is to: (1) Plant grasses well adapted to your geographical area and the amount of sunlight available on your lawn, (2) give them adequate fertilizer--expecially nitrogen, (3) provide some water while the grass is becoming established and during prolonged periods of drought, and (4) mow the grass no shorter than 1½ inches in hot weather.

In making a new lawn, calcium cyanamid may be used as a combination fertilizer and general weed control agent. It should be disked into the top 1/8 inch of soil from 2 to 4 weeks before seeding. This lapse of time will permit the toxic effects of the chemical to disappear before the grass sprouts. Calcium cyanamid is effective in controlling both annual grasses and broadleaf weeds, but it should never be applied to an established lawn because it will injure the cultivated grasses, warn ______________.

If you have trouble with weeds in an established lawn, select a chemical from your garden supply store which is effective for the weed you are trying to kill and apply it according to the directions of the manufacturer, suggest ______________. Some selective chemicals will kill certain types of weeds without injuring the grass, but no chemical has yet been found which will kill all the weeds and leave the grass unharmed.

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Chemical weed killers are generally most effective when the weeds are growing rapidly. Once weeds have become well established, they are harder to kill and require larger doses of chemical.

For a general weed treatment, an application of phenyl mercuric acetate (PMA), or potassium cyanate, in combination with 2,4-D applied in the spring and followed by two applications of PMA or potassium cyanate alone at 10-day intervals will give good control of crab grass and most broadleaved weeds. The first application should be put on after the crab grass has emerged from the soil and before it has reached the 3 leaf stage.

Crab grass is sometimes a problem in lawns even when good management practices are followed, but cutting the grass $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long will discourage it. An almost pure stand of crab grass may result if the lawn is cut as short as 1/2 inch at weekly intervals.

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In All States

Touch of Doom for Wild Onion or Garlic in the Lawn

U. S. Department of Agriculture weed-control specialists (or local authorities) offer a unique suggestion for ridding your lawn of unsightly wild onion and garlic plants. A waxy protective coating on the leaves of garlic and onion makes these plants more resistant than most weeds to treatment with chemical weed killers.

Here's the method suggested by the USDA men (or others). Mix a 5-percent solution of 2,4-D in water (about 5 ounces of an ester formulation of 2,4-D to approximately a gallon of water). Then place a rubber glove over your hand to protect it from the chemical and pull an absorbent cotton glove over the rubber glove. Apply the solution to the garlic or onion plants by dipping your gloved hand into the mixture, then firming your hand around the tops of the unwelcome pest. Press hard enough to break through some of the waxy coating on the leaves of the plant. This will permit the chemical to penetrate into the plant's system, move down into the bulbs, and kill the entire plant.

Spot treatment of this sort makes it possible to use a stronger solution of 2,4-D than would be safe for a general lawn treatment, the scientists explain.

To use up your leftover solution, here's another suggestion from the same source. Fasten a piece of kitchen sponge to the end of a stick or broom handle. Then dip the sponge into the solution and spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelion and plaintain by pressing the wet sponge firmly against the crown of each plant. Desirable plants nearby will remain uninjured if you are careful not to touch their foliage with the 2,4-D solution.

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USDA 727-55

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Farm Fillers

A long delayed seasonal decline in hog slaughter is expected to begin in April, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service. By July, slaughter will be only a little above a year earlier, instead of the 20-percent increase over last year that has prevailed so far this year. A rise in prices is expected as slaughter declines, but prices will stay below the spring and early summer of last year, say USDA marketing specialists.

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The dairy surplus situation is improving, according to a report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service. Production the last 3 months was slightly below a year earlier, and consumption was higher. The Government bought much less for price support than at the same time a year ago.

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Number of cigarettes smoked this year probably will be fairly near the 1954 total, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. King size and filter tips are likely to continue to gain. Not much change is expected in consumption of cigars, snuff, and smoking tobacco, but chewing tobacco probably will continue down.

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The early spring potato crop is expected to be marketed later than usual this year, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Storage supplies are somewhat smaller than a year ago. This indicates that prices in the next month or so will be above a year earlier.

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In Ala., Ariz., Ark., Calif., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., Mo., N. Mex., N. C., Okla.,
S. C., Tenn., Tex., and Va.

New Bulletin Describes Cotton Diseases and Methods of Control

A newly revised, easy-to-read, and attractive bulletin of the U. S. Department of Agriculture describes all the principal diseases of cotton and tells how to control them according to the latest and best methods that have yet been found.

A single copy of this indispensable handbook for the cotton producer, entitled "Cotton Diseases and Methods of Control," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1745, can be obtained free of charge from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or a local source).

Cotton diseases cost producers enormous sums each year in terms of reduced crops. The USDA bulletin states that over a 29-year period, these losses have averaged 15 percent of the total cotton crop.

Many of these diseases are now being fairly well controlled by the use of resistant varieties of cotton, seed treatments, soil fumigation, and cultural practices designed to discourage disease. Some, however, such as verticillium wilt, ascochyta blight, and rhizoctonia seedling blight, are becoming more widespread and destructive.

To combat diseases, the cotton grower needs to know what causes them, what their symptoms are, and what are the most effective control measures. The new farmers' bulletin supplies this information for all the more important cotton diseases. Color photographs are used to assist the reader in accurate identification of diseases.

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Exotic Plants Offer Promise to American Agriculture

Imported plants now being tested by USDA scientists may eventually change the farm scene in many parts of the country. Brought in by trained plant explorers, plants with such strange-sounding names as ramie and kenaf, for example, give promise of providing strong fibers for rope and other special uses. Timber bamboo offers possibilities for paper pulp and structural timber, and a tropical yam called Dioscorea may become a good source of cortisone-like drugs.

A quarter of a million foreign plants have been introduced into the United States since the year 1898 when the U. S. Department of Agriculture started to keep a record of the newcomers, according to Dr. Byron T. Shaw, administrator of the Department's agricultural research service (or local authority).

Introduction of new plants actually began very early in our history. In 1827 President John Quincy Adams made the search official by asking all American consuls to send rare plants and seed to Washington for distribution to interested growers.

Some of the more important introductions noted by Dr. Shaw include crested wheatgrass and soybeans. These have helped to revolutionize farming in this country. Others--like a little wild tomato from Peru with resistance to wilt--have played less well-known but highly important roles in giving us vastly improved varieties. Other introductions have helped to establish specialty crops such as dates, tung nuts, and avocados.

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Now our best opportunities for improving crops, stabilizing farm production and opening up new markets for farm products are found through research on the crops we are already growing, says Dr. Shaw. But the Department of Agriculture still makes plant explorations abroad when there is a pressing need for material that cannot be obtained by other means.

An example of such a need occurred recently when a new strain of wheat rust --Rust 15B--built up to dangerous proportions, threatening all commercial varieties of wheat in the Western hemisphere. A plant explorer was sent to Ethiopia, a known geographic center of wheat rust resistance. The wheats he brought back provide new sources of resistance which can eventually be bred into our native wheats.

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In All States

Check for Grubs in Sick Lawns

Spotty damage to lawns, or a general unthriftiness for which there is no obvious cause, may be caused by beetle grubs. These caterpillar-like larvae develop from eggs laid in the sod by adult beetles. Remaining in the soil throughout their larval stage--sometimes for several years--they feed upon the roots of grasses and other plants. If a sufficient number are present in the lawn, whole root systems are destroyed and the grasses die.

Though lawns may suffer from the ravages of a great array of insects, beetle grubs do the most damage, and their activity is harder to detect, according to A. M. Vance, U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologist (or other authority).

Mr. ____________ suggests an easy method to check for the presence of grubs in the lawn. Cut down on three sides of a square foot of sod, 2 to 3 inches deep, with a sharp spade. Then forcing the spade underneath, lay back the foot of sod, using the uncut side as a hinge, and examine for grubs. If six or more grubs are found in this area of soil, the lawn is subject to damage, and some treatment is called for.

A number of new insecticides, all more effective than the arsenic of lead formerly used for this purpose, will kill beetle grubs. Tests so far have shown chlordane to be the most promising insecticide for lawn treatment, but others include aldrin, DDT, dieldrin, and heptachler.

All these materials are poisonous and should be handled and applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's directions. They are available in the form of wettable powders or emulsifiable concentrates that can be mixed with water and

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used in a sprayer, or in the form of dusts and granules that can be applied directly to the lawn.

When treating for grubs, it is a good practice to sprinkle the lawn after the insecticide is applied, says Mr. ____________. This will wash the poison down into the soil where it can reach the insects.

Beetle grubs are soft-bodied and wingless, completely unlike the adult beetle in appearance. They range from 1/2 inch to 3 inches in length and are capable of only slow movement. Most of them remain curled up and motionless when exposed to the light. One, the grub of the green June beetle, will crawl on its back when it is placed on the ground.

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Light Sprinkling Is Good for Newly Seeded Lawns; Established Grasses Need M Water

Spring is the one season when light sprinkling from a hose held in the hand can be beneficial to a lawn.

For newly seeded lawns this method is hard to beat, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture irrigation specialist M. D. Thorne (or other authority), provided the force of the water is not too great.

Lawn grass seeds are usually sown near the soil surface where, if no supplemental moisture is supplied, they are subject to alternate soaking from dew and rain and drying from the action of wind and sun. To germinate properly and root themselves the seeds and young seedlings need a constant light supply of moisture.

A light daily sprinkling in dry weather is recommended to keep the seeds developing normally and permit the young seedlings to develop sufficient root system to reach the moisture available below the surface. The force of water should be gentle so that it does not wash the seeds or shift the soil in the seedbed.

Once lawn grasses become established, light sprinkling from a hose held in the hand has little value, says ___________. Application of at least an inch of water is then required to reach the grass roots where it can do the most good. This amount can be applied best through a sprinkler attached to the end of the hose or a length of perforated or canvas hose through which the water can spray or soak.

The quantity of water applied to the lawn can be checked very easily, Mr. ___________ suggests, by placing a few empty 1-pound coffee cans or similar containers at several spots within the area being sprinkled. When the water in the cans reaches a depth of 1 to 1½ inches, enough water has been applied. This method will also show whether the application within the sprinkled area is uniform.

Lawns on loamy soil should be given an application of 1 to 1½ inches of water about once every 10 days in dry weather. Once in 20 days should be enough for clay soil, while every 5 days may be necessary for lawns on sandy soil.

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English Walnuts Need Warm Weather for High Quality; Yields Increased by Nitrogen

Warm temperatures and lots of sunshine are more important than fertilizer in producing high-quality walnuts, but nitrogen fertilizer will increase the nut size and yield.

These are the conclusions of U. S. Department of Agriculture Horticulturist J. H. Painter after a 5-year study of walnut fertilizing practices in Oregon. His research involved testing the effects of four nutritional elements--nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium--used to fertilize Franquette (English) walnuts in nonirrigated hillside and valley orchards.

The fertilizer materials were broadcast by hand between February 15 and March 15 and were disked in when the winter cover was turned under, usually by April 15. Nitrogen was the only element that had any significant effect.

Nitrogen was found to increase both yield and size of walnuts, but there was no comparable increase in kernel quality. Six pounds of nitrogen were applied to each tree.

For production of high-quality walnuts, warm weather appears to be essential, according to Painter's findings. Excessive temperatures--either too high or too low--are harmful.

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Nontoxic Chemicals Are Found To Control Insects by Slowing Life Processes

U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists and chemists, working together, are discovering some possible new methods of controlling insect pests through the use of nontoxic chemicals which, while not actually killing the insect, inhibit its normal development and reproduction processes. Use of such chemicals could open up vast new opportunities for insect control with less poisonous substance than are commonly used.

One such promising chemical that has been tested against houseflies is piperonyl butoxide. Usually considered harmless alone but added as a booster to other insecticides, it was found to be effective alone against houseflies when blended with a bran-malt-yeast medium used in rearing experimental flies. The chemical slowed down development of larvae, preventing many from becoming adult flies.

The greater the dose of piperonyl butoxide, the greater was its effect. When it was 0.111 percent by weight of the rearing medium, only about one-fourth of the flies developed into adults, and those that did took 2 extra days in the process. When the chemical was 0.250 percent of the mixture, practically no flies reached adulthood.

Other chemicals now being tested prevent normal cell division and growth or slow down an insect's metabolism.

These studies--designed to find out how insects react to various chemicals, short of dying--have barely opened a new field of research. Much work remains to be done before any practical applications can be recommended, say the USDA scientists. But we may be hearing more about these "slowdown" chemicals within a few years, says ________________________.

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For: N. C., S. C., Ga., Fla., Ala., Miss., Ark., La., Okla., Tex.

Nitrogen Boosts Pecan Yields

Fertilizing with nitrogen is usually the best way to boost pecan yields because this is the nutrient most likely to be lacking in pecan-orchard soils, say U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists (or other authority).

The nitrogen can be applied either in spring or fall, and since it is effective in any of its common forms, the cheapest kind of nitrogen fertilizer available may be used. Nitrogen is readily used by pecan trees during the same season it is applied.

Spring and fall applications of 4 different nitrogen fertilizers were tried on Schley pecan trees in 2 orchards at the USDA Pecan Field Laboratory, Shreveport, La. Trees in one orchard were about 49 years old, in the other 25 years old. Fertilizers used were calcium cyanamid, ammonium nitrate, sodium nitrate, and ammonium sulfate. Each was applied in October 1953 and in March 1954 to comparable lots of trees. The fertilizer was broadcast in a circular area around the tree and extending a little beyond the branch spread, then disked in.

No significant differences were found in nitrogen content of leaves collected from the trees in June 1954, regardless of the nitrogen source or time of application. The scientists conclude that pecan growers can expect equally good results from any of the four fertilizers when equivalent amounts of nitrogen are used, and the time of application can be suited to the system of management.

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U. S. Farm Capital Resources Now Valued at $14,000 per Farm Worker

Behind each of the 8½ million farm operators, hired hands, and family workers on United States farms, there lies an average capital investment of about $14,000, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture economists.

This amount--four times the 1940 average per farm worker of $3,500--is invested in land, farm buildings, livestock and feed inventories, machinery and equipment, and cash for operating expenses. It does not include approximately $5,000 per worker invested in houses, automobiles, household goods, and savings.

Inflation has been the principal factor in the increase in dollar value of farm resources in relation to number of workers--the same resources would have been valued at $6,000 in 1940 dollars. But the investment, even in 1940 dollars, is a 70-percent increase. Two other developments have been responsible for this actual increase in resources per farm worker. Farmers have bought much new machinery and equipment; they have added to their buildings; and they have improved their land a great deal. In addition, the number of farm workers has been shrinking and is now about a fourth less than in the years immediately preceding World War II.

Most striking is the increased investment in machinery and equipment. Average value of equipment at the disposal of each farm worker today is nearly $1,900, as compared with $200 worth of machinery and equipment per worker in 1940.

The investment per agricultural worker of $14,000 is an average for all farms in the United States. This includes, the USDA economists point out, a relatively few very large farms and ranches worth several hundred thousand

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dollars and thousands of small and part-time farms with little value in land, buildings, livestock, and equipment.

If only full-time, commercial farms were considered, the average investment per worker might be at least $20,000. A study in 1953 indicated an average investment per worker of $20,000 to $24,000 on hog-dairy and hog-beef farms in the Corn Belt, on irrigated farms of the Texas High Plains, and wheat-livestock farms of the Northern Plains. On the other hand, average investment for each worker on cotton farms in the Southern Piedmont and Mississippi Delta is about $7,000. And for many individual farms in these areas, the investment per worker is much smaller.

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______________ (State Extension Director or other authority) Suggests Electrical Inventory on REA's 20th Anniversary

This is an appropriate time for ______________ (State) rural families to check on how efficiently they are using electricity to help them with farm and home chores, ______________ (Extension Director, or other authority) suggested today.

______________ made this statement while calling attention to the 20th anniversary on May 11 of the Rural Electrification Administration, the agency which has helped make electricity available to ________ 1/* (number) consumers over REA-financed lines in rural areas of ______________ (State).

Today _____ 2/ percent of ______________ (State) farms have electric service as compared with _____ 3/ percent in 1935, the year REA was established, according to reports recently received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"Though we can be proud of the progress of the past 20 years, we also need to be alert to every new opportunity to make electricity an even better farm and home helper," ______________ said.

"To get the maximum benefit from electric service, farm families should make sure that their electric appliances are in good repair and that they are using them to the best advantage. Proper care helps avoid big repair bills and helps assure that the equipment won't break down when it is needed most. To assure top efficiency in the use of electric power it is also important that farm homes and buildings are adequately wired to carry the load needed to operate all the farm

*Note to Editors: Figures for filling in blanks will be found on the attached tables. Number on blank corresponds with number on heading of appropriate column.

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equipment used. Overloaded wires result in poor equipment performance, wasted power, higher electric bills, and blown-out fuses, besides creating a hazard," ____________________ continued.

____________________ also emphasized the need for farmers to weigh carefully their needs for electric farm machinery in order to make sure that the equipment they buy in the future will be suited to their particular farming needs. He pointed out that when farmers have questions about power use, they can obtain the assistance of experts through their county agents or their electric power supplier.

Recent reports from REA show that from the beginning of its program up to January 1, 1955, REA had lent a total of $______________ 4/ to __________ 5/ co-operatives and __________ 6/ other borrowers in _________________ (State) for building electric facilities. When all the construction authorized in these loans is completed, the facilities will provide electric service to an estimated _______________ 7/ consumers. This number includes the _______________ 1/ rural consumers connected to REA-financed power lines up to the beginning of 1955.

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Rising Electric Power Consumption Boosts Farm Efficiency

________________________ (State Extension Director or other authority) noted this week that power consumption on ________ (State) farms has increased greatly during recent years. Figures released by the Rural Electrification Administration in connection with its 20th anniversary on May 11 show that the average monthly power consumption per farm on REA-financed lines in ________ (State) increased from ____ 8/* kwh in December 1947 to ____ 9/ kwh in December 1954.

Although this big jump in power consumption is evidence that farmers are making electric power do more work for them, there is still a big field for improving farm efficiency through the wise use of electricity in the opinion of ____________. As he sees it, successful farmers are always looking for new ways to streamline their operations by cutting down unnecessary labor. Electric farm equipment not only affords a big opportunity for labor saving but also enables the progressive farmer to increase his production, reduce waste, and improve the quality of his farm products.

Automatic watering and feeding equipment for livestock, barn cleaners, electric water pumps, milking machines and coolers, pig, lamb, and chick brooders, ventilating fans, crop driers, electric hotbeds, yard and barn lights, hoists, feed grinders, freezers, and electric hand tools are only a few of the many labor-saving uses to which ________ (State) farmers are profitably putting electricity. (Note to Editor: Adapt this list to fit practices in your State.)

*Figures for filling in blanks will be found on the attached tables. Number on blank corresponds with number on heading of appropriate column.

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Electric Co-ops Commended for Repayment Records

Farmers in ______________ (State) were commended by ______________ (State Extension Director or other authority) for the fine record their rural electric co-ops have maintained in paying back their REA loans.

Records released by the Rural Electrification Administration, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary on May 11, show that up to the beginning of 1955 electric borrowers in this State had paid $__________ 10/* in interest and $__________ 11/ in principal on their REA loans. This includes $__________ 12/ paid in advance as a cushion against future interest and principal payments. Only $__________ 13/ in payments are in arrears.

REA estimates that at the beginning of the 1955 fiscal year, 92 percent of American farms had electric service, as compared with less than 11 percent in 1935, its first year of operation.

In January 1955, 4,176,000 farms and other rural establishments, such as schools, churches, nonfarm homes, and crossroads stores, were served over REA-financed lines. Electric loans since the beginning of the program total $2,946,228,477. These loans, when facilities are completed, will enable the some 1,000 electric cooperatives and other borrowers to provide electric service to 4,426,785 consumers over 395,825 miles of line.

______________ also commented on the downward trend in power costs and the upward trend in power sales to consumers on REA-financed lines.

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The beginning of 1955 saw cost of electricity to consumers served by REA electric co-ops drop to an average of 3.06 cents per kwh as compared with 3.22 cents in 1953.

The 20th year of REA activity also saw a big increase in the sale of electric energy. During 1954, energy sales rose to 16.5 billion kwh--an increase of 2.8 billion kwh over the preceding year.

"This 2.8 billion kwh increase in power consumption in 1954 is more power than all the REA borrowers together sold in 1946," concluded ____________________. "This increase is dramatic evidence of the tremendous growth in electric power consumption on the farm."

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In All States

Responsible Dealers Plus Federal-State Vigilance Protects Farmers From Seed Frauds

Farmers these days can feel assured that the seed they buy conforms to the information on the label. The great majority of seed dealers are highly dependable, and buyers of agricultural seeds are safeguarded against the few instances of attempted fraud by close cooperation between State and Federal seed law enforcement officials.

State and Federal seed acts, dating back 40 to 50 years, are among the oldest regulatory services furnishing protection to farmers. The Federal law, administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, requires that seed shipped in interstate commerce be labeled with information describing its quality, and prohibits false labeling and false advertising. Laws of the 48 States also provide detailed labeling requirements for seeds sold within their borders. A memorandum of understanding between each State and the Federal Government provides a practical working relationship between the two. Over 300 State inspectors regularly sample seed subject to the Federal and State laws.

A good example of how these laws protect farmers is shown in the records of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Thousands of northern alfalfa growers were protected against a fraud involving southern-origin alfalfa seed which was misrepresented by a few seed firms as being higher-priced seed of northern origin adapted to the climate.

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If the fraud had been successful, northern farmers would have faced loss of most of their alfalfa crops from winterkill, in addition to having paid double or more the value of the seed they bought. Fortunately most of the seed was seized or discovered before it could be sold to farmers, and those guilty were brought to trial, convicted, and have paid the penalties provided by the law.

In 1950 winter-hardy northern alfalfa seed was in short supply, but non-winter-hardy southern seed was plentiful. Usually there is about a 20-percent premium on northern-grown over southern-adapted alfalfa seed, but at this time the differential was about 100 percent. Several enterprising individuals and firms came up with the same idea--buy southern alfalfa seed, adulterate or otherwise identify it as northern-grown seed, and clean up large profits.

Original discovery of the fraud came about through a routine check of a carload of seed represented to be of Canadian origin. The alleged Canadian seed contained seeds of silversheath knotweed, a weed which does not produce seed in northern States. Further investigation revealed numerous shipments of southwestern alfalfa seed into the Northwest and Midwest for sale as northern seed. The dealers involved were caught through a check of their shipments against their sales records and in some cases when they offered adulterated seeds for Federal verification of its origin.

Prompt action of State and Federal seed enforcement officials protected northern farmers from buying this seed under false labels. And since that time there have been no more serious complaints regarding misrepresentation of the origin of alfalfa seed, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service.

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American Aid Helps Korean 4-H Clubs Rebuild Their Country

Approximately 100,000 Korean children and young adults have enrolled in 4-H Clubs organized in South Korea with the help of the American-Korean Foundation.

The Korean people first learned of 4-H work and its possibilities for helping to rehabilitate their war-scarred land when clubs were organized in 1946 under the leadership of Colonel C. A. Anderson, American military governor of the South Korean province of Keiki, where the city of Seoul is located.

When South Korea became independent at the end of the Korean conflict, the Korean people asked the American-Korean Foundation to help them organize 4-H Clubs throughout South Korea. Colonel Anderson, now retired from the United States Army, returned to Korea in 1954 to undertake this work for the foundation on a volunteer basis. The foundation operates entirely on funds donated in this country for Korean aid. Many of its officials, like Colonel Anderson, work without compensation.

Colonel Anderson recently came back to this country to obtain materials urgently needed to help the keen and eager Korean youth, many of them orphaned, crippled, and made homeless by war, to carry out their 4-H projects.

He is returning shortly with a ship laden with dairy cattle, goats, pigs, chickens, bees, seeds, second-hand sewing machines, and dress material. Most of it was donated by the people of the State of Texas, where Colonel Anderson with the help of the Christian Rural Overseas Program told the story of Korean needs.

Korean 4-H'ers will earn the things they use in their projects by paying back an equivalent in value to a 4-H Club "bank" from which other youngsters may draw material for their projects.

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Conservation Farming Raises Income From Dairying in Ohio

Conservation farming can increase net income over that obtained from conventional soil-depleting type of farming in a dairying operation. This was shown by a recent study made on a number of dairy farms in hilly southeastern Ohio and reported by R. H. Blosser, of the Ohio State University, in the May issue of Soil Conservation magazine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Soil-depleting farming brought an average net income of $2,810 per farm per year. Against this, conservation farming gave an average of $3,285 with the same amount of acreage, labor, and capital used.

When full use was made of the additional feed resulting from conservation farming, 840 additional hours of labor and $2,500 more capital were required. If labor was supplied by the farmer and his family, net income--that is, income after expenses were paid--rose to $4,085. Even when the additional labor was hired, it resulted in an average net income of $3,585, or $300 more than the conservation farming without full utilization of additional feed supplies.

In comparing net income for the two methods of farming, everything was kept the same except the amount of conservation practices applied. This showed differences in income that could be attributed only to the additional crops produced under conservation farming. Cows producing about 9,000 pounds each of milk for sale were used for both types of farming, but less grain was fed per cow under conservation farming.

Crop acreages were the same for both methods of farming. They were: Corn 12 acres, wheat 14, meadow 34, permanent pasture 36, and woods and miscellaneous 24.

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Soil-depleting farming included red clover and timothy meadows, no contour stripcropping or terracing, small applications of lime and fertilizer on cropland, and no permanent pasture improvement. Soil-conserving farming included alfalfa-grass meadows, contour stripcropping, and liberal applications of lime and fertilizer on cropland and permanent pasture.

Yields for soil-depleting farming averaged 46 bushels per acre for corn, 22 bushels for wheat, and 1.2 tons for hay. Yields for soil-conserving farming averaged 68 bushels per acre for corn, 26 bushels for wheat, and 2.5 tons for hay.

Lower-producing cows reduce the possibilities for increasing net income with conservation farming if labor must be hired, according to the report.

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Important Soybean Diseases and Treatment Described in Farmers' Bulletin

About 50 diseases attack soybean crops in the United States, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Damage in any area in any given year depends upon the diseases present and conditions that may favor their spread.

Estimates for the entire country covering the 10-year period 1942-51 show that annual losses amount to more than 31 million bushels of soybeans, or approximately 12 percent of the crop.

A newly revised farmers' bulletin produced by USDA in cooperation with agricultural experiment stations of Mississippi, Illinois, and North Carolina describes the symptoms of all the important soybean diseases and the best control methods thus far developed. It also lists available varieties resistant to some of these diseases and adapted to northern, central, and southern soybean-growing areas.

Soybean diseases are caused by parasitic bacteria, fungi, viruses, and nematodes. To reduce losses, the grower needs to identify the diseases and apply the most effective control measures available. The USDA bulletin will help him to do this.

A single copy of "Soybean Diseases," Farmers' Bulletin 2077, can be obtained free of charge from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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USDA 1001 (4-55)

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AGRICULTURE

Farm Fillers

In terms of dollar value, coffee still leads United States imports of all agricultural commodities despite a marked decline in volume of coffee imports since 1953. Rubber, which had held second place in value of agricultural imports during the prewar period 1935-39 and for the year 1952, yielded second place to sugar in both 1953 and 1954.

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The final date for placing 1954-crop corn under support is May 31, according to the Commodity Stabilization Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or local ASC committee chairman).

Nationally, through March 15, around 158 million bushels of 1954-crop corn had been placed under price support, as compared with 332 million bushels of 1953-crop corn placed under support through the same date a year ago. Of the 1954 total, 148 million bushels are farm-stored under loan, 1.2 million bushels are warehouse-stored under loan, and 9 million bushels are under purchase agreements.

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Farm Fillers

Research is showing that comfortable farm animals are more efficient. For example, in California, beef cattle sprayed with water during hot days gained a quarter pound more a day than those that were not sprayed.

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A most encouraging piece of news came from the Regional Poultry Laboratory at East Lansing recently. The scientists there have succeeded for the first time in producing chicks immune to the visceral form of lymphomatosis, or big liver disease, by inoculating the mother hen. Although this finding has not yet been tested sufficiently, it represents a real break in a long fight to control this disease. A practical means to control lymphomatosis could save poultry producers up to 75 million dollars a year.

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In New England, an improved system of farming on a typical 26-cow dairy farm was planned chiefly around better methods of producing and harvesting forage crops. Without adding any more land or workers, the reorganized system would bring a dairyman an increase of about $825 a year in net income.

Studies of dairy farms in Michigan indicate that feed costs can be reduced as much as $55 per cow, or 46 cents per 100 pounds of milk produced, when excellent rather than poor-quality hay and pasture are fed. A dairyman who has good cows and produces and feeds excellent-quality forage can reduce grain feeding by about 1,300 pounds and protein supplement by 330 pounds per cow and still get the same production of milk as a dairyman who feeds poor-quality hay, plus the larger quantity of grain and protein.

Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a speech by Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, given in Buffalo, N. Y.

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Farm Fillers

The average family in the 1920's spent about 25 cents of its wage dollar for food. On the average, families still spend about the same proportion of their income for food. But for our money, we are eating more meat, milk, eggs, vegetables, and fruits and depending less on cereals and other staples, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. We are also enjoying more variety in food throughout the year.

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Back in the 1920's, it is estimated a housewife had to spend $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours' kitchen time preparing a day's food for a family of four. Today, she can do it in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or State authority).

Groceries bought today come with "built-in" maid service. This extra service costs money. Processing, transporting, and marketing now take more of the family food dollar than farmers get for growing the food. Nevertheless the family grocery bill doesn't take any greater percentage of the net family income than it did 30 years ago. That's a real tribute to the efficiency of modern farmers, says ____________________.

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Today $8\frac{1}{2}$ million U. S. farm workers are producing more than $13\frac{1}{2}$ million workers did 30 years ago. Production per man-hour has more than doubled.

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In States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia

Modern Cattle Shelters and Equipment for Southern States Described in New Publication

State agricultural colleges and Extension Services of 13 Southern States have collaborated with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in developing plans for modern efficient cattle shelters especially adapted to conditions in the South. The results of this collaboration are now available to Southern cattle owners through their State Extension Services.

The best and most representative of the plans which were developed from this State-Federal cooperative effort have been drawn together and are presented in a new publication of the Department of Agriculture. The plans are described with a maximum of pictures and drawings and a minimum of printed material. Included are plans for barns, laborsaving feeding equipment (some movable or designed for self-feeding), corrals, stocks for holding cattle during vaccination and other treatment, loading chutes, bull pens, and breeding stalls.

More complete working plans for structures and equipment adapted to cattle management in ____________ (State) can be obtained from ________________________ (County agent or other State source). The publication is useful for giving an overall view of the types of equipment that are most useful for handling cattle in the South.

A single copy of the USDA publication "Cattle Shelters and Equipment for Southern States," Agriculture Handbook No. 81, may be obtained from ____________ (State source) (or the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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Pesticides Shipped Interstate Must Meet Federal Standards

Consumers can be reasonably well assured of obtaining the results described on the label when they use any of the 35,000 pesticides now on the national market--provided, that is, that they carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, a manufacturer or distributor must register pesticides (including weedkillers and disinfectants) with the Pesticide Regulation Section of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service before they can be shipped across State boundaries.

To be so registered, a product must be effective for the use stated and to the extent claimed, be properly labeled as to ingredients, and be accompanied by adequate directions, including necessary warnings.

Even after a product has been registered, it must continue to meet the same standards. Roving investigators collect samples from the market for testing to determine whether the product continues to measure up. Minor violations are usually corrected promptly when called to the manufacturer's attention. Serious cases may lead to seizure of the product and prosecution of violators.

Under authority of the recent Miller Act, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sets tolerances for the amount of pesticide which may safely remain on food products. The Department of Agriculture advises whether these limits reasonably reflect the residues likely to result from use and certifies whether the product is useful agriculturally. USDA also cooperates with State

(more)

pesticide control officials in seeing that products are legally marketed, with the Federal Trade Commission in preventing extravagant advertising, and with the Public Health Service in setting up adequate safety precautions.

Farmers can cooperate with these public agencies, and protect their own interests as well, by carefully following all directions for use and application of commercial pesticides, says ________________________.
(State or local authority)

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Market for Corncobs Reported Growing

More than a million tons of corncobs were used last year in factory operations and industrial products. They returned $10 million to farmers and rural cob grinders, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or other authority).

Owing largely to research carried out by the USDA and private industry, use of corncobs in industry has been increasing sharply--60 percent in the past 5 years.

The Department estimates that total production of corncobs runs to about 15 million tons a year, with more than half of this in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Indiana, and Minnesota. Most of this tremendous supply is still burned or otherwise disposed of as waste.

Here are some of the many things for which corncobs are now used: About half the total collected and sold goes into production of the chemical furfural which is required for making nylon, synthetic rubber, pharmaceuticals, and resins, for petroleum refining, and as an industrial solvent. The remaining half million tons is used in a great variety of ways--for incorporation into livestock feeds; in cleaners and polishes for metal, glass, plastic, and molded rubber items; for air-blast cleaning of engine parts and large electric-motor and generator installations; as a carrier for insecticides; and as a constituent of plastics and tread stock for automobile snow tires. Thousands of tons of cobs--either whole or coarsely ground--are used for poultry litter, livestock bedding, garden mulch, and for filling lowland areas and preventing erosion. Many farmers return crushed or ground cobs to fields to loosen heavy soils and maintain humus.

With the door now open to practical uses for this important farm residue, further expansion of cob collection and utilization can be expected, says the Department of Agriculture.

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Farmers Advised To Use Insecticides With Caution

Insecticides are essential to modern farming. Yet a word of caution concerning their use on vegetable crops is offered by V. R. Boswell, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (or other authority). He bases his advice upon research done at a number of State experiment stations aimed at learning the effects of overdosages of insecticidal material on flavor, aroma, and texture of food products.

According to Boswell, research has disclosed no particular problem when insecticides are used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Undesirable effects may develop, however, if growers yield to the temptation to put on an extra amount "for good measure," or if they use an insecticide on a crop for which it is not recommended.

At the New Jersey State Experiment Station, it was found that soil treatments with 2 to 16 pounds of chlordane per acre and 25 to 50 pounds of toxaphene caused definite off-flavor in potatoes. These higher rates are considerably above normal. Chlordane also affected potato quality in studies by the Maine Experiment Station.

Louisiana-grown sweetpotatoes from plots treated with chlordane at 26 pounds per acre were poor-textured and stringy. When the plant foliage was repeatedly dusted with heavy applications of 20-percent toxaphene, the sweetpotatoes lacked sweetness and flavor.

At the Irrigation Experiment Station, Prosser, Wash., there was variable impairment of quality by high rates of DDT or chlordane. Aldrin at 60 pounds per acre (the normal dose is 3 pounds) caused poor flavor in sweet corn and potatoes.

Since wide use of organic insecticides is new and experimental results vary with weather and soil conditions, it may take many years to get reliable information on all the materials now in use. Meanwhile, Boswell advises growers to use insecticides only when they are needed and then only at the recommended rates.

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In All States

Airplanes Treat Large Acreages in Federal-State Pest Control

More than 2-1/4 million acres in 16 States were treated by aircraft in 1954 in Federal-State cooperative programs for the control of agricultural pests, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or other authority).*

Since the first use of the airplane for dusting cotton in 1922, aircraft have been used in Federal-State cooperative pest control programs for the suppression of introduced pests to prevent or retard their spread, to control pests that migrate from one State to another, and to control those that infest large areas that cannot be treated adequately by landowners.

Types of aircraft used in these programs have ranged from blimps to helicopters to bombers, though the majority have been conventional-type, small airplanes converted for agricultural purposes. The pests involved have varied from soil inhabitors to forest defoliators, and from insects unable to fly to those capable of long flight.

Insecticidal materials used for treatment have included dry dusts, dusts treated with oil, wet bran-sawdust mixtures, dry bran, rolled wheat, granulated insecticides, and sprays.

USDA experience has shown that aircraft pest control need not be the hazardous occupation that many still believe it to be. During the 18 years that the Department has employed pilots for this work, those permanently employed have flown approximately 24,000 hours without a single serious injury, despite the difficult circumstances necessarily accompanying much of the work.

*Acres treated by States:
Colorado--240,000, Idaho--157,000, Montana--20,000, Nevada--30,000, New Mexico--113,000, Oregon--19,000, Texas--43,000, Utah--72,000, Wyoming--202,000, Connecticut--162,000, Maine--28,000, Massachusetts--977,000, Michigan--86,000, New York--87,000, Pennsylvania--7,000, and Vermont--25,000.

USDA 1225(5-55)

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In All States

Airplanes Answer Need for Insect Control in Forests

Airplane spraying with new insecticides, ~~particularly~~ DDT, has provided the first practical means for controlling epidemic outbreaks of destructive insects in forests, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or other authority). Previously such outbreaks destroyed as much as 90 percent of the merchantable timber over extensive forest areas.

Research in the specialized field of aerial spraying is being conducted cooperatively by the U. S. Forest Service and the Agricultural Research Service at the Department's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland. The work is directed toward developing equipment and sprays that will increase the effectiveness and reduce the cost of this method of insect control.

During the past 8 years, over 5 million acres of forest land have been successfully treated by aerial spraying, and control costs have been reduced from $3 to approximately $1 per acre.

Because of their ability to cover extensive areas rapidly and economically, airplanes are valuable for conducting surveys to check insect conditions as well as for applying insecticide sprays. Federal, State, and private agencies are cooperating with the Forest Service in developing better methods for making such aerial surveys.

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In All States

Agricultural Aviation is Fast Growing Industry

Agricultural aviation has come a long way since the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station made the first experimental application of insecticide from an airplane in 1919, reports ______________________ .
(State or local authority)

The following figures from the Civil Aeronautics Administration point this up, says ____________________ . One cultivated acre out of every six in the United States is now being treated by aircraft with dust, spray, fertilizer, or other kinds of agricultural chemicals. Aerial crop control is done in every State on a total of more than 200 types of crops. Over 7,000 aircraft are operated by private aerial applicator firms, and the total annual flying time in this business in 1953 was 722,000 hours.

The annual amount of chemicals dispensed by air has grown to 644,000,000 pounds of dust-type materials and 80,000,000 gallons of liquid sprays. Aerial pest control, weed control, and fertilizing add an estimated $3 billion to annual farm income.

Despite the tremendous growth in agricultural aviation, says ________________, only recently have airplanes been specifically designed for this purpose. Most planes used in aerial application today, he explains, were designed for some other purpose, and then converted.

Applicators have often displayed ingenious ability in converting planes for agricultural purposes. They have been aided by some research in this field by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. But a need exists for further research, states ____________________, to increase the effectiveness of treatments, reduce costs, and eliminate hazards to crops and men.

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In All States

Local Leadership Plus Cooperation of Many Agencies Needed To Help Low-Income Farmers

Local initiative, local interest, and local enterprise are the foundation stones in a proposed plan to help low-income farm families find ways to more abundant living. The plan, presented to Congress by President Eisenhower, is described by ______________________.
(State or local authority)

A report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, upon which the plan is based, indicates that many of America's farm families have not shared sufficiently in the Nation's general prosperity and the improved standard of living which most Americans enjoy. As many as 1.5 million families have a total cash income of less than $1,000 a year. The cause for this is described as lack of opportunities and inadequate agricultural resources in certain areas, rather than any lack in the people themselves.

"The President's long-range plan to help the less fortunate members of our farm population," says ________________, "is based upon the logical concept that a permanent solution must begin with goals set by the people themselves, and be attained through the cooperative efforts of all segments of the community and all levels of government concerned with the problem."

Recommendations included in the plan call for expansion of Federal and State services in technical assistance and extension work in areas of low resources; more intermediate-term credit from private and cooperative lending agencies for farm development; additional credit and technical assistance from the Farmers Home Administration; a Federal-State research program aimed at finding answers to problems common to low-income farmers; improved State employment services; encouragement of industrial expansion in regions where there is an underemployed rural labor supply; development of more educational and vocational training opportunities in rural areas, beginning with pilot programs within the next school year; improved health service and medical facilities in areas of need; and trade area and community development programs to increase incomes and raise living standards.

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In All States

Federal Plan To Raise Farm Income Would Aid One-Fourth of U. S. Farm Families

The Federal Government has proposed a plan for a cooperative approach to an old problem which affects the economic health and welfare of the whole Nation, says ________________________ (State or local authority). The problem is that of providing better opportunities for farm families in areas where income from agriculture is low.

Census figures for 1950 showed that more than one-fourth of U. S. farm families had an annual cash income of less than $1,000. Some of these families are part-time farmers. Most of them live on small farms. Some of the farm operators are old or in poor health, but the majority are able-bodied adults who could do much better in providing for themselves and their families if they were helped to find more productive farming methods or some means of earning supplemental income off the farm. Their present low standards of living mean human misery, poor health, lack of opportunity for their children, and a drain upon the Nation's strength--economically, socially, and militarily.

A plan presented to Congress by President Eisenhower and based upon recommendations growing out of a study by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Advisory Commission calls for a coordinated attack upon this problem, with local, State, and Federal agencies helping individual low-income farm families to achieve their own goals for better living.

The plan, according to ______________, includes such elements as expanded agricultural extension service adapted to the needs of farmers with limited resources, research in areas suited to their needs, additional credit, increased technical assistance, expanded vocational training, and development of supplemental employment opportunities in rural areas.

The program submitted to Congress suggests that "pilot" programs in line with the overall plan should be started as soon as possible in at least 50 of the approximately 1,000 farming counties where farm income is too low by present United States standards. The first programs would provide experience in finding the most effective approaches to the problem of increasing opportunities in these areas.

Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse has been designated as the major USDA official responsible for direction and coordination of the Department of Agriculture's part in the program.

But the plan envisions the participation of local civic and business leadership, farm organizations, schools, churches, community and service clubs, as well as local, State, and Federal Government agencies, in developing a full-scale, long-range assault on the problem of improving the standard of living in less productive farm communities, ______________ states.

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In All States

Accent Is on Youth in Government Plan To Aid Low-Income Farm Families

More vocational training for young people, better educational opportunities, improved nutrition and health standards for the children of farm families. These are important aspects of a proposed Federal-State plan to raise living standards and increase opportunities in areas where income from farming is lower than average.

The proposed plan presented to Congress by President Eisenhower is based on a study carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Advisory Commission. It includes recommendations by the Secretary of Agriculture on methods that might be used to help farm families in less productive areas to achieve their own goals for better living.

In both the USDA report and the recommendations growing out of it, special attention has been focused on the young people growing up on farms in less productive areas. It is pointed out that they are the ones who would stand to gain most from an increase in opportunities. Also, the principal changes which will be made in farm areas of low natural resources will come about through young people, many of whom have not yet finished their education. The report points to the importance of these farm children as part of the Nation's human resources.

Among the recommendations, it is suggested that grants-in-aid for vocational education should be considered, as well as all other possible ways of making education more readily available to farm people. The Secretary of Agriculture is requesting the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to encourage and appropriately assist States and communities to set up a number of pilot operations during the school term starting in the fall of 1955 to provide more adequate vocational training for young people. On the basis of experience gained, similar programs would later be developed for other low-income rural areas.

The report shows that education among farmers in difficult agricultural areas is well below average. In areas where income from farming is below $1,000 a year, only 1 farmer out of 10 is a high school graduate, and 7 years of school is the average. By contrast, farmers elsewhere average 8½ years of schooling and 1 out of every 4 is a high school graduate.

Another general recommendation deals with the need for improved health. Some of the most urgent needs, it is stated, are better nutrition, development and use of voluntary health insurance, recruitment of medical personnel (especially nurses), promotion and establishment of clinics and other facilities.

Farms with low income are found in all parts of the country, but such farms are most numerous in areas of dense rural settlement with high birth rates. There are concentrations of low-income farm families in some one thousand counties of the United States--almost one-third of the counties. About half of the young people from these families leave the farms to work in offices, factories, and to assume leadership throughout the United States.

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In All States

Plan To Help Low-Income Farmers Should Improve Opportunities in the South

Farmers in the southeastern quarter of the United States will be the principal beneficiaries of a proposed plan to improve opportunities for farm families in low-production areas, according to ______________________.
(State or local authority)

The plan presented to Congress by President Eisenhower and based upon recommendations by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson calls for expanded extension work, additional credit, and more educational opportunities and technical assistance to rural areas where farm production and living standards are low as compared with those in the rest of the Nation.

Efforts would also be made to develop more employment opportunities as a means of supplementing farm incomes and providing work for those who wish to obtain off-farm employment, explains ________________.

A report issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture spots the areas of need--that is, areas where farm family incomes average less than $1,000 annually, production from farming is low, and the level-of-living index falls within the lowest fifth for the Nation. Such areas are found in every State, but the problem is concentrated in the southeastern quarter of the country, with scattered areas in the West, the Northwest, and the Northern Lake States.

The plan presented to Congress, says ________________, calls for cooperative action as a means of attacking the problem--with farm families that will benefit working together with Federal, State, and local agencies to find the means of improving their economic status. It is suggested that a "pilot" program be undertaken within the next year in not less than 50 counties to develop experience in finding the most effective approaches to increasing opportunities for families in less-productive rural areas.

The plan calls for a request to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to expand vocational training in the rural low-income areas, and the Department of Labor would be requested to strengthen the Employment Service in these areas, adapting it to the needs of rural people. With the cooperation of the Departments of Labor and Commerce and the Office of Defense Mobilization, programs will be developed to induce the expansion of industry in rural underdeveloped areas.

Expanded credit and technical assistance would be provided by such agencies as the Farmers' Home Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. Research and extension work would be carried out by cooperating Federal agencies and State land-grant colleges. Local application of the program would depend upon local leadership and participation.

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In Ind., Ill., Iowa, Kans., Mich., Minn., Mo., Nebr., N. Dak., Ohio,
S. Dak., Wis.

North Central States Cooperate in Breeding Better Poultry for Egg Production

Higher quality, more productive poultry is the aim of 12 States cooperating in work at the North Central States Regional Poultry Breeding Station.

Work at the station, located at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., is described by ______________ (State authority). States cooperating in the project include Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

One of the first objectives of the station's research is to evaluate the relative egg-laying performance of hybrids, crossbreds, and purebreds. Another is to search for commercially valuable hybrids through crossing of available inbred lines.

Thus far hybrids, crossbreds, and purebreds have shown about the same production ability, but testing is still in its early stages. Meanwhile egg samples for testing the various breeding techniques are coming in from all the cooperating States. The eggs are hatched, chicks raised, and their laying performance compared with those from other breeding samples.

"The notable thing about the Regional Poultry Breeding Station is that it represents a practical and economical approach to research of interest to a number of States," says ________________.

Chickens from various breeding lines are raised under identical environmental conditions, making it easier to compare their livability, stamina, and vigor, as well as their production ability, he explains. And testing the birds at a central point promotes quicker exchange of information among researchers.

Federal money earmarked for research in cooperating States was used in building the Regional Testing Station. Purdue University provided the land.

Similar regional poultry breeding stations have been established for southern, northeastern, and western regions. The southern station specializes in broilers, the western station in turkeys, and the northeastern in egg production and poultry diseases.

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Borer-Resistant Corn Being Developed by Plant Scientists

The European corn borer will find itself with no corn to bore, if co-operating Iowa and USDA scientists have their way.

Working at Ankeny, Iowa, in the heart of the United States Corn Belt, these scientists are developing strains of corn able to resist attack by one of the crop's worst enemies. They expect to be ready to release such corn to growers by 1960.

A successfully resistant corn would not only reduce the $100 million annual crop loss caused by the borer but it would also eliminate the effort and expense of mixing and applying insecticides used against this pest.

Producing a resistant corn has been made more difficult by a spread across the Corn Belt during the 1940's of a corn borer able to produce two broods of young, instead of one, in a season. This means the corn must be resistant or tolerant to attack at all stages of its growth. It is the larvae, or young insects, that attack the corn plant by boring into leaves, ears, and stalks to feed.

A number of inbred lines of corn with some degree of borer resistance have already been developed. The harder part of the job lies ahead--crossing resistant and susceptible strains to produce borer-resistant hybrids that possess other desirable characteristics such as good yield, disease resistance, and standability.

USDA 1291-55

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New Peach Varieties Are Bred for Special Purposes

Research is making peaches a more versatile crop. New varieties are being bred to meet specialized markets and special growing conditions. The result should be greater popularity for the fruit, a longer marketing season, and greater returns to growers, according to ____________________.
(State or local authority)

A number of new varieties are already available. More are coming. ____________________ suggests that growers can keep abreast of developments in peach breeding and new varieties adapted to ________________ through their
(State)
county agent, reliable local nurserymen, or (other source).

Among very early ripeners now planted widely are Erly-Red-Fre, a white-fleshed semi-freestone, and Dixired, a yellow cling. A rival variety is Cardinal, which has performed well in Georgia tests. Hiland and Redcap need less cold to set buds, and Maygold, which needs even less chilling, is being tried in south Georgia and Florida.

Redhaven is an outstandingly successful early freestone throughout the country except in the Deep South. Coronet is popular in the warm Southeast. Prairie Dawn is winterhardy and resistant to bacterial spot. Triogem is replacing the coarser-fleshed Golden Jubilee in some areas, and Missouri and Ranger are other promising yellow varieties ripening at the same time.

For the July season, Sunhigh is a high-quality buyers' favorite grown from the Central States eastward, though it is susceptible to bacterial spot and spring frosts. Other good peaches for this season are Southland and Ozark for the South and Red Globe for the West.

Elberta is still the most popular for its season, though Redskin shows promise which may develop with further testing. Loring, Poppy, and M. A. Blake ripen about a week earlier than Elberta.

Good-quality late varieties are still needed, and breeders are working to improve both trees and fruit for this season. Meanwhile Rio Oso Gem has proved best in many areas.

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Note to Editors: Your State specialist should be able to tell you which varieties are best for your State.

USDA 1292-55

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Weed Spraying in Home Garden Calls for Special Precautions

Weed spraying with properly selected chemicals can save a lot of hand labor even in small home gardens, but unless care is taken to prevent drift, some treasured or valuable plants may die with the weeds, says ________________.

This is particularly true when 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T materials are used, because some plants are very susceptible to even small quantities of these chemicals.

To keep the spray from drifting, ____________ recommends a shielded boom or sprayer wand for spraying weeds close to flowers and shrubs. Another important thing is to keep the pressure down, he cautions. High pressure is not needed to kill weeds and there is less drift with low-pressure sprays.

The weather is also important in weed spraying. Spray drifts more on windy days. And heat tends to make the weed killer more volatile so that its fumes may damage nearby plants on days when temperatures range above 90 degrees.

For spraying weeds, ____________ sums it up, select the right chemical for the weed you are spraying, wait for a day that's still and cool, and use a low-pressure sprayer that restricts the spray to the plant you wish to kill.

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Garden Page Fillers

Crabgrass in home lawns is best fought by lawn grass itself. Give the lawn grass a chance to compete by cutting it no shorter than 2½ inches.

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Several chemicals may be used for killing weeds that sprout under high-branching shrubs. Three that give good results are sodium isopropylxanthate (NIX), pentachlorophenol (PCP), and sodium arsenite. Their strength can be adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions so that they kill weeds without leaving a residue likely to damage the roots of desirable plants.

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Poison ivy can be killed by a spray combining 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, though several treatments may be required. Another good poison-ivy killer is ammonium sulphamate (sold as Ammate). Ammonium sulphamate is less likely to drift to other plants, but it will kill any plant that is well covered with the chemical.

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USDA 1294-55

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All States

Lambs Gain Faster on Pelleted Feed

Lambs reach market weight sooner on pelleted feed than on the same feed fed separately and loose. This has been shown in experiments at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center at Beltsville, Md.

About the same amount of feed was used per day under both systems in the Beltsville tests, but more of the pelleted feed was eaten and less was wasted. Savings in feed resulted from the reduced number of days needed to fatten the lambs to market weight.

Reasons for the faster gaining rate with pelleted feed are not completely clear. I. L. Lindahl, the research scientist who made the study, thinks the lambs found the pelleted food tastier. Absence of dust in the pelleted food may be a factor, and less bulkiness in feed may also appeal to lambs.

On a diet of 45 percent yellow corn, 5 percent blackstrap molasses, and 50 percent No. 2 alfalfa hay, lambs gained an average of 0.31 pound per day on loose feed hand-fed, 0.34 pound per day on loose feed self-fed. On the same diet pelleted and self-fed, lambs gained 0.42 poundper day. To put on 100 pounds of weight required 972 pounds of hand-fed loose feed, 908 pounds of self-fed loose feed, and only 772 pounds of pelleted feed.

On another diet of 50 percent barley, 5 percent blackstrap molasses, and 45 percent No. 2 alfalfa, the respective gains from the different feeding methods were 0.29, 0.42, and 0.43 pound per day, and feed consumption was 1,210, 847, and 832 pounds per 100 pounds of gain.

Similar results were obtained in lamb-feeding tests carried out by the Illinois and New Mexico experiment stations. Whether the extra benefit gained from using pelleted feed is sufficient to meet the cost of pelleting has not been determined.

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All States

Compliance With Acreage Allotments No Longer Required for ACP Aid

To be eligible for cost-sharing aid under the Agricultural Conservation Program, farmers are no longer required to comply with acreage allotments on basic crops issued for their farms, ______________________ (State or local authority) reported this week.

A provision in the Agricultural Act of 1954 requiring compliance with crop allotments as a condition for ACP aid has been repealed by Congress, and the bill has been signed into law by President Eisenhower, __________________ said.

The ACP, a plan by which the Government shares with farmers the cost of carrying out certain approved agricultural practices or improvements which are effective in conserving soil and water, is administered locally by Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committees. To obtain cost-sharing aid, which covers only a part of the cost of any conservation project, application should be made to the local ASC Committee. Technical advice about such projects can also be obtained through the committee.

__________________ cautions ___________ (area) farmers that while the recent action removes from ACP cost-sharing payments all restrictions due to crop allotments, acreage allotment compliance is still required for price support on basic crops.

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U. S. Farm Real Estate Values Rose Slightly in Past Year

Farm real estate values remained generally firm or rose slightly in most areas of the country during the 4 months ending March 1, 1955, according to a report just released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The overall increase was 1 percent for the 4-month period and 2 percent for the year ending March 1.

In ______________* values rose (or fell) ____ percent between November
(State)
and March and ____ percent during the 12 months ending March 1.

Land values this March were above a year earlier in half the States. Largest gains for the 12-month period, averaging about 6 percent, were centered in the Corn Belt, where there has been little or no decline since the post-Korean peak in 1952.

In Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida, farm real estate values were at a record level, and in Connecticut, North Carolina, and Louisiana they were the same as their previous peak.

The number of farms sold also increased somewhat. Voluntary transfers of farm real estate were at the rate of 32 farms per 1,000 during the year ending March 1, 1955. This was 7 percent above the rate for the previous year. Largest gains in sales volume occurred in Minnesota, Oregon, and Kentucky. The downward trend of recent years continued in most of the New England and Southeastern States, but was reversed in the North Central and Western States.

Records of farm sales show, according to the report, that from 40 to 50 percent of all land purchases in the wheat areas were made to enlarge existing farms. In the central Corn Belt at least a third of all purchases were for this purpose. With many farms in these areas still below the optimum size for maximum efficiency, this type of demand can be expected to have a bolstering effect on the level of land prices for some time, the report suggests.

*For changes in your State, see maps on pp. 1 and 2 of attached report.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special
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Editors

Fillers for June Dairy Month

Milk is an important source of three nutrients that are needed in the human diet in larger quantities than many people consume. They are calcium, riboflavin, and protein.

Hare are the amounts of milk recommended by nutritionists for daily use, either as a beverage or in dishes made with milk:

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Children: 3 to 4 cups

Teen-agers: 1 quart or more

Adults, all ages: 2 or more cups

Expectant mothers: 4 or more cups

Nursing mothers: 6 cups

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To keep fresh milk at its best, keep it clean, cold, covered, and dark. Milk standing in a clear-glass container on a sunny window sill or doorstep loses riboflavin and may develop a "sunlight" off-flavor--in as brief a time as half an hour. An insulated wood or metal box should be provided for milk that cannot be refrigerated immediately upon delivery.

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Research has shown that a person on a reducing diet gets along best when he consumes more protein than usual. This is a good reason for including plenty of milk, particularly skim milk or buttermilk, in a slimming diet.

Skim milk or buttermilk contains all the nutrients of whole milk except fat and vitamin A, yet a cup of skim milk or buttermilk contains only 85 calories as compared with 165 calories in a cup of whole milk.

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USDA 1384(6-55)

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Fillers for June Dairy Month

For more milk at breakfast, use milk instead of water in cooked cereals. Directions for cooking cereals in milk are usually given on the package.

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Milkshakes flavored with crushed banana, strawberry, and other fruit purees make good between-meal and end-of-day snacks.

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Try hot milk poured over poached eggs on toast for breakfast.

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To get more milk into a meal serve creamed dishes made with a medium-thick white sauce, such as creamed chicken, creamed eggs, and creamed dried beef.

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For more milk value in foods, add whole or nonfat dry milk to the fluid milk used in soups, mashed potatoes, cereals, and beverages. One half cup of dry milk added to a pint of fluid milk makes the food twice as rich in milk value as it is when fluid milk alone is used.

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All States

Americans Eat More for Less

Here are some interesting comparisons from the U. S. Department of Agriculture:*

Thirty years ago an hour's take-home pay would buy $5\frac{1}{2}$ loaves of bread--now it buys 10 loaves.

Then an hour's take-home pay would buy $3\frac{1}{2}$ quarts of milk--now it buys 7.

Then it bought $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of steak--now 2 pounds.

Then it bought $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of chicken--now it buys 3 pounds.

An hour's take-home pay today buys 3 dozen oranges or $9\frac{1}{2}$ cans of tomatoes--about 3 times as much as 30 years ago.

And here is an indication of what has happened to diets. We consume per person today about 3 times as many oranges as we did 30 years ago--about twice as much ice cream and tomatoes--about two-thirds more chicken--about a third more beef.

We drink more milk and eat more cheese, vegetables, and fruits, and our bread and grain products are enriched.

*From a recent speech by Secretary Benson.

USDA 1436 (6-55)

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers*

There's still a lot of room for progress in agriculture.

Our crops are still menaced by some 30,000 known diseases. We lose 10 percent of our meat production to livestock diseases and parasites. Rodents and insects damage grain enough to feed about 10 million hogs. About one-fourth of some of our fruits and vegetables spoil before they reach the consumers' tables.

The average cow last year gave 5,500 pounds of milk. But the record for milk production is 42,805 pounds--nearly 8 times the average.

Hogs now gain a pound of weight for 4 pounds of feed. But there are some that have put on 200 pounds of weight on 600 pounds of grain in the space of about 5 months.

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*Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a speech by Secretary Benson.

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All States

U. S. Surplus Disposal Policy Spelled Out

The policy of the United States Government in regard to the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities has been reemphasized by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

Addressing an audience in Canada, Secretary Benson said: "There will be no glutting of world markets with United States farm surpluses.

"Our agricultural export policy is based on three principles:

1. We must compete fairly on the world market.
2. We must be competitive in quality.
3. We must participate in a mutually profitable international trade that gives our customers abroad the continuous opportunity to earn foreign exchange needed to buy our products."

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USDA 1467(6-55)

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In All States

Farm Fillers

Household consumption of both butter and margarine is on the rise. About 8 percent more butter and 13 percent more margarine was purchased for household use in April 1955 than in April a year ago, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Numbers of horses have been decreasing rapidly in recent years in North America and Western Europe, but they have been increasing in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Numbers have changed little in Asia, South America, and Africa, according to USDA figures.

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The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that U. S. farmers operate 60 to 65 percent of all tractors used in agriculture in the world.

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A total of 8,921,000 persons were at work on farms during the last full week of May. Of this total, a little less than 7 million were farm operators and unpaid members of their families, and almost 2 million were hired workers.

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USDA 1536(6-55)

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All States

Dehorning Recommended for Beef Cattle

Horns and choice beef carcasses do not go together. Feeders having horns, says ________________________ (State or local authority), do not feed out so well as dehorned cattle.

Badly bruised carcasses are usually found in shipments of horned cattle. These bruises detract from the appearance of the carcasses and lower their sale value. Aside from the damage done to the meat, the hide is frequently damaged as a result of cattle goring one another, according to __________________.

In general, dehorned cattle usually command a better price in the market place than horned cattle of similar quality and condition, ________________ states.

USDA 1554 (6-55)

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All States except Great Plains States -
Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas,
Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Nevada

Grain Supplements Speed Finishing of Suckling Calves

When beef cattle are raised under intensified farming conditions and pasture is rather limited, the practice of feeding a grain mixture to calves while they are still running with their dams on pasture is meeting with considerable favor.

________________________ says the finishing of calves by this
(State or local authority)
system means a quick turnover, and can be recommended where grade herds are maintained for beef production in farming areas.

If spring calves are fed a supplement of grain on grass while they are nursing their dams, they can be marketed in the fall when weaned at an average weight of about 500 pounds, according to ____________. Beef calves 6 to 8 months old, of good quality and finish, are usually in good demand and generally bring greater net returns than if carried over another year or two.

Calves fed a grain supplement on grass while nursing may either be allowed to run with their dams and have access to grain in a self-feeder placed within a creep, or they may be given separate pasture with access to grain and be permitted to nurse 2 or 3 times a day. Using separate pasture for cows and calves involves more labor than allowing the calves to run with their dams.

USDA 1555 (6-55)

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All States

Calcium Supplement Is Needed if Cattle Ration Contains No Legumes

If no legumes are included in a fattening ration for cattle, there may be a deficiency of calcium in the feed. This element is needed, says ___________________, because it contributes to the animal's bone development. It is most important in rations for young animals.

Calcium may be supplied in many forms, such as pulverized limestone, oystershell, or calcium carbonate, according to ____________. One ounce of calcium in the daily ration in any of these forms should make up for any calcium deficiency due to the absence of legumes, he suggests.

Another valuable calcium supplement mentioned by _____________ is bonemeal. This contains both calcium and phosphorus, and it can be fed free choice in a box next to the saltbox, with some covering to protect it from the weather.

USDA 1556 (6-55)

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All States

Fattening Cattle Need Salt

Fattening cattle should consume from ½ to 1½ ounces of salt per head daily, depending on the kinds of feeds used in the ration and the age of the cattle, according to ________________.

Salt should be kept before cattle at all times, says __________, and loose granulated salt or compressed block salt are more satisfactory than rock salt.

The salt will be used most economically from a self-feeding box with a roof to protect it from rain or snow.

It is a mistake, says _____________, to withhold salt from cattle toward the close of the feeding period and salt heavily just before shipping. Though this may cause the cattle to drink more water at the market than they otherwise would, shrewd buyers are able to estimate very closely the amount of such fill on the cattle.

USDA 1557 (6-55)

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In All States

USDA Study Shows Need for Better Equipment and Handling for Sideline Livestock

A farm labor study recently completed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service points up a need for new equipment and handling methods especially adapted for small numbers of livestock.

The study shows that it takes almost as much labor now as it did 50 years ago to keep sideline livestock--a cow, a few chickens, or a few pigs. Progress seems to have bypassed this phase of farming. Most of the commercial-type equipment and better handling methods that have been developed for livestock production can be used economically only with large-sized herds or flocks.

As might be expected, milk cows were found to be big labor users. A hand-milked cow requires 140 man-hours per year, on the average, while a machine-milked cow requires 111 hours. Feed and litter carriers, barn cleaners, stanchion drinking cups, pipeline and bulk handling of milk, and maintenance of large herds and high-producing cows, all make for less work per unit of milk produced.

In hog production, size of herd also makes a big difference in labor requirements. A large herd can use self-feeders, self-waterers, and good pastures economically, whereas small herds cannot. Labor ranges from 14 man-hours per $100 of pork products in the North Central States, where herds are largest, to about 25 hours in the South where herds are smallest.

In poultry raising, labor-saving and cost-saving equipment and management practices begin to be economical with a 200-bird flock, and become even more so as flock size increases.

The Agricultural Research Service concludes that the obvious need for whittling down labor time in small-scale livestock production is a great challenge to agricultural research.

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In All States

Milk Production Affected by Herd Changes, USDA Study Shows

A time when milk prices are seasonally high and every pound of milk and butterfat counts is a poor time to introduce a new cow into the dairy herd.

This odd but important bit of information for dairy farmers arises from animal behavior studies at USDA's Dairy Field Station in Jeanerette, La. Any sudden change in herd makeup may be responsible for a temporary drop of as much as 5 percent in milk and butterfat production, it was shown by the studies.

Such changes, it seems, create excitement in the herd, marked by butting, kicking, and threatening. Only when the "intruder" is finally accepted is peace restored. This may take many days when a totally strange cow is added to an established herd.

Even returning a cow to the herd after she has been absent causes some readjustment. This may require several days if the cow has been absent for as much as six months or more. If she has been away only a few days, on the other hand, herd business will not be noticeably interrupted.

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USDA 1587(6-55)

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All States

Imported Beetle Is Clearing Western Ranges of Poisonous Klamath Weed

A French beetle which came to the United States by way of Australia is helping to put thousands of acres of Western rangeland back into grass. It is accomplishing this by devouring the poisonous Klamath weed that had infested vast stretches of range and rendered them useless for grazing.

The work of this little beetle is cited by ______________________ (State or local authority) as an example of many unique methods being used by modern science to attack agricultural pests. This system where a living plant or animal is used to destroy another, in one of nature's limitless battles among the species, is called biological control.

The effectivensss of the French beetle (scientific name, Chrysolina gemellata) in controlling Klamath weed was first discovered by a team of Australian scientists. They were sent to Europe by their government to search for a parasite for this very purpose, and their successful use of the beetle in Australia was followed with interest by American scientists.

In 1945, U. S. Department of Agriculture and University of California entomologists released 5,000 of the European beetles in Humboldt County, Calif., an area heavily infested with Klamath weed. By now the insects and their descendents have cleared at least 500,000 acres of the weed in California, and beetles have been introduced by USDA and State entomologists into Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

Wherever the Klamath weed flourishes, the beetle also seems to flourish. Its life cycle neatly fits that of the weed, both being dormant and active at the same time. And since the beetle eats nothing but Klamath leaves, all its feeding effort is concentrated against the pest.

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All States

Insecticides Can Rid Farm of Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes can be a severe problem, as well as an annoyance, on the farm, says ________________________. They often cause livestock to lose weight by
(State or local authority)
driving them away from lush pastures. They may also cause poultry to lose weight and lay fewer eggs.

To get rid of mosquitoes, ______________ suggests that you first look for standing water on or near your property. Mosquitoes breed in such places as temporary rain pools, flooded areas, irrigated pastures, salt marshes, ponds, and even in water caught in tin cans, rain gutters, or discarded tires.

Wherever possible, eliminate these breeding places by removing the water, says ______________. Where the water cannot be banished, as in ponds and irrigated pastures, the entire water surface should be sprayed or dusted with an insecticide.

The following sprays are recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or State authority) to control mosquito larvae in standing water: (1) A 1-percent emulsion or oil solution of DDT, chlordane, toxaphene, TDE, or methoxychlor; or (2) a 0.5-percent emulsion or oil solution of lindane, dieldrin, or heptachlor. Each of these should be applied at a rate of 1 ounce per 100 square feet, or about 10 quarts per acre of water surface.

If it is easier to dust the water surface, a ready-mixed 5 or 10-percent DDT dust may be applied at a rate of 2 to 5 pounds per acre. A very light mist of pyrethrum is recommended to kill mosquito larvae in fishponds and ornamental pools without poisoning fish or plants. This also is available ready for use from insecticide dealers. No more than 1 ounce of spray should be applied per 100 square feet of water surface.

It may be necessary to use a residual spray on areas where adult mosquitoes rest or hide about the farm if the breeding places are on neighboring property or some distance away. For this purpose a 5-percent DDT, 2-percent chlordane, or 1-percent lindane spray, applied to foundations and underparts of buildings, tree trunks, logs, and vegetation will be effective for a week or more.

Insecticide dealers can give directions for mixing these recommended sprays at the proper strength. Oil solutions and emulsions should not be used on vegetation because they may burn the leaves.

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In All States

Feed Pumped From Truck to Bin Cuts Labor in Poultry Farming

Feed pumped into farm bins by low air pressure from specially designed supply trucks is proving a great money-and-labor-saving boon to some poultry farmers in a number of States, according to ________________.

Two New Jersey poultry supply cooperatives were pioneers in this development of piped-in feeds. One of these--the Central Jersey Farmers Cooperative--now operates six pneumatic bulk trucks for delivering piped-in feed to about 200 flockowners.

Farm labor is expensive in the area served by this co-op, owing to competition with nearby industries, and most farm operations are geared to the family labor available. As might be expected, many families have been able to increase the size of their flocks as the workload has been reduced by bulk feeds used in conjunction with mechanical feeders. This combination uses machinery to do all the lifting of feed from mill to hen. It eliminates losses from bag damage, gives protection from rats, and has enabled many elderly people to stay in business longer by eliminating the heavy lifting.

Experience has shown that airtight welded steel storage bins and supports are best for the piped-in-feed system, though some farmers have constructed cheaper bins of wood and plyboard. Bins can be placed anywhere convenient for the farmer since feed can be pumped around corners or as high as necessary for multistoried laying houses.

Bin capacities are from 1½ tons for small flocks to 4 tons and over for larger ones. The recommended size is 5 feet square, and the height is based on feed capacity required for a week or 10 days, or 80 cubic feet for each ton of feed.

Bins with hoppers underneath that have two 60-degree angle sides and two straight sides leading to a 12-inch square outlet give a good feed flow. This arrangement is especially desirable for bins installed over automatic feeders.

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In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina

Research Rescues Sugarcane That Ran Out

Commercial sugarcane growers, as well as ______ (State) farms with a cane "patch" for home use, will benefit from research that has moved in promptly to head off a new disease of sugarcane. Known as ratoon stunting disease, it has been recognized only in the past 5 years. The disease gradually slows sugarcane growth, leaving fewer, smaller, and shorter stalks.

Australian plant pathologists discovered the disease in 1950. It was later found in Louisiana by an Agricultural Research Service plant pathologist at USDA's Sugarcane Field Station, Houma, La. Both of these findings shed light on a worldwide mystery that had baffled scientists and cane growers for many years.

Sugarcane plantings had tended to "run out"; that is, new canes produced well at first, tapered off in 5 or 6 years, and became commercially worthless in 10 years or less.

Losses from known diseases had seriously cut Louisiana's sugar production, and scientists hastened with research to check further disaster.

But the old story repeated itself. New varieties -- although resistant to the established, known diseases -- ran out just as the old ones had. So for another 20 years, plant breeders coped with this problem only by providing a steady flow of new, vigorous high-yielding varieties.

After the ratoon stunting disease was discovered and United States researchers were convinced that it was a real canefield villain, they set out to combat it directly. They had two facts to go on. They knew that it was a virus disease and it could be spread from infected to noninfected cane by harvester machines and knives.

(more)

Australian researchers tried heat treatment, which had long been used by Dutch planters to obtain "better growth." The planters got that result -- without knowing perhaps that the treatment checked disease more than it stimulated growth.

United States researchers got results too.

Under a Federal-State-private-industry cooperative plan, portable heat treating equipment is being used for emergency control of the new disease in Louisiana. Treated seed cane is distributed in limited quantities much as newly released varieties are distributed. The seed thus obtained is distributed in small quantities to farmers who produce their own stock.

Researchers are now seeking cane varieties tolerant or immune to ratoon stunting disease.

The disease itself is also being studied. It is insidious -- growers notice it only by a slow but sure loss of yield. It has little effect on sugar content, but stalks become smaller and shorter, with fewer of them millable. Worst of all, early symptoms are evident only inside the cane and don't look convincing to most growers.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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For Conn., Del., Maine, Md., Mass., N. H., N. J., N. Y., N. C.,
Ohio, Pa., R. I., S. C., Vt., Va., and W. Va.

Nonpoisonous Spray Will Protect Ripening Fruit from Japanese Beetles

If the beautiful, but destructive, Japanese beetle is present in your vicinity this summer, you will need to provide some protection for any ripening fruit or berries on your land.

A spray prepared with 5 ounces of derris (containing 4-percent rotenone) to 10 gallons of water will drive Japanese beetles away from ripening apples, peaches, plums, cherries, grapes, and berries, according to ________________ (State or local source).

________________ says that the active ingredient in this spray--rotenone--is comparatively nonpoisonous to human beings, but it is both poisonous and distasteful to the beetles. The spray should be repeated at 7-day intervals for as long as necessary.

Plants which are not to be eaten can be protected from Japanese beetles by spraying with 3 ounces of 50-percent wettable DDT or 5 ounces of 50-percent wettable methoxychlor in 10 gallons of water, says ________________. This spray, or one containing equivalent amounts of emulsifiable liquid DDT or methoxychlor, should be repeated as needed to maintain a protective coating on the plants until the beetles disappear.

DDT and methoxychlor are poisonous and should be handled strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, with the usual precautions to protect children and pets.

(more)

The Japanese beetle infests the coastal States from southern Maine into North Carolina, and inland to parts of West Virginia and Ohio. From this area it is spreading outward at a rate of 1 or 2 miles a year. Wider spread is retarded by Federal-State quarantine regulations on the movement of plants, soil, and other material which may carry the beetle.

During the summer, in its adult form, the metallic-green and burnished-gold beetle feeds heavily on the leaves, blooms, and fruits of more than 275 kinds of trees, shrubs, field crops, and garden plants, injuring many severely. During the rest of the year it lives in the soil as a white grub, feeding on the roots of grasses and other plants.

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In All States

Research Finds New Uses for Fats and Oils

By chemically modifying familiar fats and oils, such as cottonseed oil, peanut oil, lard, and others, research scientists may soon find surprising new uses of long-time value to farmers in ________________ (State) and other States producing products used in the making of fats and oils.

Research scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are chemically changing these well-known fats and oils into new substances which may be used to keep foods fresh longer, make spreads spreadable over a wide range of temperature, produce top quality plastics, and even be used in cosmetics.

These unusual modified fats and oils are known as "acetoglycerides." They have been produced at USDA's Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, La., by acetic-acid treatment of ordinary fats and oils. Chief among their unusual properties is an exceptionally wide range of plasticity and the ability to exist as nongreasy plastic solids. These qualities make acetoglycerides of great potential value to industry. Furthermore, they can be tailormade to give them properties desired for particular uses.

Various acetoglycerides are potentially important for use in cosmetics, including creams, lotions, and lipsticks--and as plasticizers. Plastics made with them have good resistance to weathering, remain clear and flexible at low temperatures. Acetoglycerides can be made colorless, odorless, and flavorless. Natural animal fats or vegetable oils used as starting materials make up 80 to 90 percent of the final product.

Acetoglycerides should open many new markets for our increasing supplies of edible fats and oils. At least eight companies have prepared acetoglycerides in the laboratory or pilot plant, and two of these companies now offer experimental samples to possible commercial users.

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USDA 1708(7-55)

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In All States

Law Controlling Pesticides on Fresh Farm Produce Becomes Effective July 22

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July 22, 1955 is a date that all farmers would do well to note, according to the _____________ State Extension Service. This is the date that the so-called "Miller Bill" becomes effective.

An amendment to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, this bill is designed to protect the public from harmful residues on agricultural food products. It applies to all raw fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, eggs, meat, raw milk, and similar produce moving in interstate commerce.

Interstate shipments of all such products will be subject to Federal inspection after July 22. Any shipments found to contain residues of poisonous pesticides beyond certain established "tolerances" may be confiscated or condemned for use as human food.

This does not mean that farmers need be afraid to use pesticides--insecticides, fungicides, weed killers, rat killers--when they are needed, the Extension Service emphasizes. It does mean that care must be taken to follow the manufacturer's directions (or an official Extension guide), both as to the amount of material used and the timing before harvest.

The Miller Bill was backed by both farm leaders and the pesticide industry because it aims to protect consumers of agricultural products against careless misuse of pesticide materials. Requirements in regard to manufacturers' labeling resulting from this legislation will also help farmers to keep their products safe and wholesome.

Residue tolerances established by the law apply to the amount, expressed in parts per million, of a pesticide residue allowable on fresh farm produce ready for interstate shipment. Some highly poisonous pesticides such as mercury compounds and TEPP have a zero tolerance--which means that none of the material may remain in or on agricultural products being shipped. Some other materials such as rotenone, pyrethrum, and copper fungicides, have been exempted because they do not create a residue hazard.

These are the important things for the farmer to remember, the Extension Service stresses: (1) follow directions carefully in using pesticides, and use no more than recommended, (2) don't allow an emergency situation to build up before taking control measures, and (3) consult your county agent (or State Extension Service) if you have a pest problem which puzzles you.

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All States

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Water Needed in Cooking Food Waste Used for Swine Feeding

A liberal amount of water should be added to food scraps and waste being cooked for swine feed.

This suggestion comes from ____________________.
(State Extension source)

____________________ explains that water will prevent burning and sticking in the cooking process. It will spread the heat more evenly throughout the load, prevent overheating of the cooking vat, and reduce the time needed for cooking.

"Use enough water to almost cover the material you are cooking," says ____________________.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently that after January 1, 1956, swine that have been fed raw garbage at any time in their lives, and swine products derived from them, could not be moved interstate except for special processing. Special processing reduces the value of hogs in some cases as much as 50 percent.

Laws prohibiting the feeding of raw garbage to swine have been passed in 46 States, including ____________________.*
State

This legislation came about through a need to control vesicular exanthema (VE), a highly infectious swine disease. An outbreak of VE three years ago threatened the Nation's swine industry. At the height of the infection, 150,000 hogs were infected or exposed to infection in a single month. Forty-two States were involved.

Prompt control measures carried out through Federal and State regulatory authorities with the cooperation of the industry have largely wiped out VE. Cooking of garbage used for swine feed has played an important role in this successful control program.

It will help a great deal to prevent other diseases of swine in addition to VE, says ____________________.

*All States except Connecticut and New Jersey.

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SEP 15 1955
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In Ga., Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Ky., Mich., Minn., Mo., Nebr.,
N. C., Ohio, Pa., S. Dak., Tenn., and Wisc.

Large Grain Crops Point to Storage Problems

"The best insurance against shortage of grain storage space this year is to provide adequate storage on the farm to take care of your own grain crops," ____________________ (State or local authority) warned ______________ (area) producers this week.

Forecasts of a 1955 corn crop amounting to nearly three and one-half billion bushels, the second largest on record, are making experienced corn producers turn an appraising eye toward available storage facilities, both on the farm and elsewhere, said ________________.

Record large carryover stocks from previous crops increase the prospects of tight storage space this year, especially in the Corn Belt and other commercial corn areas, where the storage problem is expected to be serious.

The Commodity Credit Corporation is taking steps to provide more emergency storage bins into which some carryover stocks can be moved to relieve local storage space, said ________________. But even at best, commercial storage is expected to be extremely tight when this year's crops are harvested.

Sufficient storage space on the farm will make possible a more orderly handling of new crops and other grain still held on the farm, according to ________________. To take advantage of CCC loans and purchase agreements on grain, a producer must be able to provide adequate storage. In addition, 1953 and 1954 crops now under loan can be resealed and held for another year, with storage payments provided by the CCC.

________________ called attention to the following aids available to help farmers meet their own storage needs:

1. Farm storage facility loans, under which farmers can borrow up to 80 percent of the cost of buying or building additional storage structures, or drying equipment, are available from CCC through local ASC Committees. Loans are for 4 years at 4 percent interest.

2. A special Federal income tax feature permits farmers to amortize the cost of new storage facilities over a period of 5 years.

"Plans for storage structures to meet your particular needs can be obtained through your county Extension Service office," said ________________.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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All States

Federal Government To Cooperate in Solving Problems of Air Pollution

Farmers who have seen or suspected harmful effects upon crops and animals due to pollution of the air by industrial fumes will be interested in a new piece of Federal legislation, says ____________________________.
(State or local authority)

Public Law 159 authorizes a yearly appropriation not to exceed $5 million for the next 5 years to be used to prepare and recommend research programs for devising and developing methods for eliminating or reducing air pollution.

Because of the effects of air pollution upon human health, the basic authority for carrying out this legislation is vested in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In doing so, HEW will work with other Federal, State, local, and private agencies.

As passed by Congress, the bill recognizes that the control of air pollution is the primary responsibility of State and local governments, and that the role of the Federal Government should be limited to conducting research and providing technical services for and giving financial aid to those agencies and individuals who are concerned with air-pollution research and control.

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In All States

Special School Milk Program Expected to Reach More Children Next Term

Some minor changes in the Special School Milk Program for the 1955-56 school year should make it possible for more children to take advantage of the opportunity to drink more milk at school, according to ________________.*

By eliminating some of the difficulties encountered last year in administering the program, the changes also should encourage more schools to participate in this program designed by Congress to improve the diets of school children and increase the market for plentiful milk, says ________________.

The principal change in the program for next year, ____________ reports, concerns the method of figuring the amount of reimbursement due to a school for milk served. Participating schools will be reimbursed in the future for part of the cost of all milk served to children as a separate item--that is, all milk except one-half pint served as part of an approved lunch under the National School Lunch Program. (This does away with a more complicated system of figuring reimbursement on the basis of increased consumption.) As before the milk can be served at any time during the school day.

State educational authorities will continue to administer the program in the schools, as they did last year. The maximum rate of reimbursement that they may assign to a school is 4 cents for each half-pint for schools serving approved lunches under the National School Lunch Program, and 3 cents for each half-pint for all other schools.

According to a report from the United States Department of Agriculture, more than 47,000 schools were approved for participation in the Special School Milk program last year, says ________________. School children drank well over 400 million more half-pints of milk, in spite of the fact that the Special School Milk Program did not get under way until well after the beginning of the school year. With the program getting started earlier this year, the consumption rate is expected to increase.

*Further information may be available from your Extension dairy specialists.

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DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Operators and Workers Reminded of Changes in Social Security Coverage

Many farm operators and agricultural workers are still uncertain about how changes made last year in the social security law affect them, says ________ (State or local authority) ________.

Self-employed farmers and many farm employees are covered by social security for the first time this year, ________________ reminds farm families and farm workers in ____________________ (area).

"If you have not already done so," says ________________, "it will be to your benefit to find out exactly how the law now affects you and your family. Social security may offer you the benefit of a retirement income after age 65, or an income to your widow and minor children, or dependent parent in the event of your death.

"If you own a farm and are self-employed, you must obtain the proper tax forms from your district director of Internal Revenue, fill out the necessary information about your farm operation and income, and pay the required 3 percent tax to earn credit toward the benefits provided by the law.

"If you farm another person's land under an ordinary crop-sharing arrangement, you are a self-employed person rather than an employee. If your net earnings from self employment amount to $400 or more for a year, either from farming or in combination with earnings from some other business covered by social security, your earnings can be credited for social security and are subject to the 3 percent tax for this purpose. (The landowner, under an ordinary crop-sharing arrangement is considered as receiving rentals from real

(more)

estate. His share is thus excluded from social security credits or liabilities. But if the two have a legal partnership and share in the profits, the income of both may be creditable toward social security.)

"A member of a farmer's family--even a minor--may qualify as a self-employed person under the law if he, or she, runs a separate enterprise such as poultry raising, keeps his own accounts and pays the expenses, and his net earnings amount to $400 or more in a calendar year.

"If you are employed as an agricultural worker, and you earn $100 or more in cash (not goods or board) in a calendar year from any one employer, you are covered by the law," says ____________________. "Your employer is responsible for obtaining and filing the proper forms, and paying the tax. He should withhold 2 percent of your wages for this purpose, and send this amount, together with an equal amount to be paid by him, to the district director of Internal Revenue at the end of each quarter."

Farm operators and workers who have any question about their status under the social security law, as amended, should write to their district director of Internal Revenue for information, or get in touch with one of the 530 district social security offices located in cities and towns throughout the Nation*, suggests ____________________. Someone at your local post office or your county agent can give you the address of a social security office in your area.

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*Note to Editors: You may be able to give the address of social security offices in your area.

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Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Wool Producers Reminded to Vote by August 19 on Sales Promotion Agreement

Balloting is now underway to decide whether wool producers will contribute a small part of their incentive payments toward an advertising and sales promotion program for the U. S. sheep industry.

All wool producers are eligible to vote in this special referendum provided for in the National Wool Act of 1954, ________________ (State or local authority) reminds ________ (State or county) farmers (or ranchers). Ballots, being mailed to producers by local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees, must be returned or postmarked on or before August 19.

________________ urges any wool producer who did not receive a ballot to get in touch with his ASC committee. Since special mailing lists have had to be compiled for this purpose, it is possible that a few producers may be missed, he says.

If the sales promotion agreement is put into effect, 1 cent a pound will be deducted from each grower's 1955-clip incentive payment for a promotion campaign to be conducted by the American Sheep Producers' Council. On lambs and yearlings moved to slaughter with the wool on, deductions will be at the rate of 5 cents per hundredweight on the 1955 crop. Deductions will also be made from incentive payments that may be due producers on the 1955, 1956, 1957, and 1958 clips, but deductions for any one year will not exceed the 1955 rate.

Agreement approval by producers requires a favorable vote by owners of at least two-thirds of the sheep and lambs represented in the referendum.

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All States

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Large Grain Crop Needs Farm Storage

Prospects for a record grain crop, especially corn in __(State)__ has prompted the __(State)__ Agricultural Extension Service to remind __(State)__ farmers of the need for safe, acceptable storage of grains on the farm.

The large 1955 grain crop is coming at a time when normal grain storage space, on and off the farm, is already loaded to capacity.

In addition to the farmers' need to protect the grain, the Commodity Credit Corporation has specific requirements for grain storage that must be met in order to qualify for government loans.

Grain can be stored safely on the farm for more than a year, providing a few precautions are taken.

Particular attention must be paid to the moisture content of the grain, and farmers need a structurally strong and weather-tight building. Loans to help finance storage structures are available through ASC Committees.

Grain can be stored safely during warm weather in this area only when it has a moisture content below ____ percent.* Excessive moisture will cause souring, heating, or molding, and will promote insect infestation.

Place only clean grain in storage, the Extension Service stresses. Cracked grain, screenings, chaff, and dust provide favorable conditions for the development of insect infestations.

Even clain grain with a safe moisture content cannot be stored and forgotten. Occasionally, inspection is necessary to detect leaks, insect infestations, and moist, molding, or caking grain.

Remember, too, that buyers may refuse to pay food-grain prices for grain that has been contaminated by rats, mice, birds, or insects. Protect your grain from them.

*(Please insert the recommended safe moisture content for your State.)

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All States

Leaf Analysis Shows Promise as a Fertilizer Guide

The day may soon come when growers will turn to a commercial leaf analysis service to gain the information they need in planning to fertilize their crops.

Research carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on citrus and tung trees growing in Florida has shown that the leaves can reveal an inside story on plant nutrition. The leaves were found to be, not only food factories that transform sunshine, air, and water into plant food, but reservoirs of all the mineral food elements used by the trees in their growth and development.

In a far shorter time than would be required for fertilizer trials and soil analysis, leaves revealed deficiencies in needed food elements, and demonstrated the trees' ability to absorb nutrients in various forms and under various soil conditions. Leaf analysis also provided new information about the trees' needs for such minor elements as boron and molybdenum.

Any general use of the knowledge gained in the Florida research remains for the future, but here are some immediate practical results reported by USDA from its research on citrus and tung trees.

Twenty years ago Florida citrus growers largely confined groves to heavy soils, using a fertilizer that included 3 percent nitrogen, 8 percent phosphate, 8 percent potash, 2 percent magnesium oxide, 1 percent manganese oxide, and one-half percent copper oxide. Knowledge gained from leaf analysis has allowed extension of citrus groves to lighter soils. And fertilizers have been modified until growers now use a formula that contains nearly three times as much nitrogen, no phosphorus, the same amount of potash, more magnesium oxide, and no manganese or copper. Cases of copper toxicity, caused by fertilizers previously used, have been overcome by liming heavily.

In developing tung, researchers have been able to recommend heavier nitrogen and potassium and lighter phosphorus fertilization and to include such minor elements as copper, magnesium, zinc, and manganese.

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All States

Mysterious Substance Sought for Fly Bait

Sometimes scientific research reads like a detective story, says

__________________________. He cites the following example.
(State or local authority)

Scientists are now on the trail of a mysterious substance which should be very effective in luring that old enemy, the fly, to an insecticidal trap or bait.

The clue upon which they are working was supplied by Army scientists several years ago when they discovered that as flies feed, the material upon which they are feeding becomes more attractive to other flies. Apparently feeding flies deposit some unknown substance which attracts more flies to the same banquet.

Now entomologists at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's research laboratory in Orlando, Fla., have taken up the search for this unknown substance because of its potential value to agriculture.

The agricultural scientists have actually collected some of this material, which they call "fly factor," by dissolving sugar upon which flies have fed in water, acetone, or ether--then removing the sugar.

So far, they don't know what they have, but it works. Fresh sugar treated with fly factor attracts more flies than untreated sugar.

The scientists will continue to try to isolate "fly factor" and learn the secret of its chemical makeup. If it could be produced artificially, it would greatly increase the effectiveness of present fly-killing insecticides by making them more attractive to flies.

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USDA 1964 (7-55)

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All States

Extension Service Suggests Harvesting Tomatoes in "Pink" for Not-Too-Distant Markets

Harvesting tomatoes in the "pink" stage for sale in not-too-distant markets is proving to be a profitable practice for some ______________ (State) farmers, the ______________ (State) Agricultural Extension Service reports.

"Recently there has been increased interest in harvesting tomatoes in the pink stage," ______________ of the Extension Service says. "There has been an effort on the part of some growers, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to arouse interest in harvesting tomatoes in this stage in some areas."

The term "pink" is applied to tomatoes with red or pink color varying from a trace at the blossom end to a considerable amount of the surface covered.

Picking tomatoes in the pink stage overcomes difficulties in recognizing mature tomatoes. Pickers tend to judge maturity of the fruits by their size even though this is not a reliable guide. The result is that many tomatoes picked in the green stage never ripen satisfactorily in the marketing process.

Also many prepackagers have found that tomatoes harvested when they have a trace of pink color can be handled more economically than mature-green tomatoes. Cutting down the proportion of fruit to be ripened, and the length of time required for ripening, materially reduces the amount of space and handling required for prepackaging operations. And there is less loss from immature tomatoes that fail to ripen or those that decay.

Better consumer acceptance and other factors add up to a more acceptable product at savings that can be passed on to buyers, says ______________.

"Tomatoes that are to be marketed in the pink and ripe stages should be picked from the fields every day or two when the ripening season is well under way," cautions ______________. "Otherwise, the chances of getting soft and overripe fruit into the pack are very great."

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In All States

Farmers Advised How To Market Mixed Tomato Varieties

Shipment of _____(State)_____ tomatoes of the same variety, rather than mixed varieties, will result in a better appearing product at the market and better returns to producers, the _____(State)_____ Agricultural Extension Service today advised _____(State)_____ farmers.

"It is important that varieties should not be mixed," said _____(State or local authority)_____ "especially those that have different kinds of red color when ripened."

"In some sections where several main crop varieties are produced, there is a tendency to disregard variety when packing tomatoes for shipment. These sections ordinarily ship their stock in the green stage, at which time difference in color is not apparent."

"After such a lot ripens, however, a mixture of yellow-red and purplish-red varieties in the same container is very noticeable and the unattractive appearance is likely to be reflected in the selling price. A mixture of varieties is not so objectionable if the stock is similarly shaped and develops the same kind of color when ripened."

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All States

Legume-Seed Inoculants Pay for Themselves in Increased Yields

Possibly no commodity purchased by farmers gives greater returns for each dollar invested than legume-seed inoculants, says ____________________ (State or local authority). Yet, judging from the number of commercial cultures sold, only about 20 percent of the 75 million acres of legume crops planted each year in the United States are inoculated.

It costs about 50 cents to inoculate enough alfalfa or clover seed to plant 3 to 5 acres of land, ____________________ points out, or about 25 cents per acre for winter peas or vetch.

Commercial seed inoculants that can be purchased at these prices contain beneficial live bacteria, which are effective both for increasing yields and for improving the quality of legume crops, he explains. Different strains of bacteria are effective on different classes of legumes. Soybean inoculants, for instance, do not work well on clovers, and lupine inoculants are not suitable for alfalfa.

The bacteria act by attaching themselves to the roots of leguminous plants where they absorb energy from the plant and in turn help the plant to obtain nitrogen from the air which is always present among the soil particles. They do this by "fixing" the nitrogen in a form that makes it available to the plant.

Some strains of bacteria are more effective nitrogen fixers than others, while some are purely parasitic. The parasitic types may form nodules on the roots, as do the more effective ones, but while they absorb energy from the plant they fix little, if any, nitrogen. Both effective and ineffective bacteria may occur naturally in the soil.

"If you are not sure whether it would pay to use an inoculant on your legume seed," says ____________________, "a practical test using inoculated and uninoculated seed in your own fields will soon tell you. When the right bacteria are present, the plants are a richer green and yields are definitely higher."

Legume-seed inoculants can be obtained from seed dealers. It is important to follow directions given on the container in using these inoculants and to plant the seed promptly after it is treated, says ____________________.

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In All States

Careful Harvesting Can Increase Returns to Tomato Producers

Tomatoes are a highly perishable crop--a large percentage of those harvested never reach the consumer's table because they are lost in the marketing process. Anything which can cut these losses should result in generally larger returns to tomato producers, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or a local authority).

Rough or careless handling in harvesting is one of the principal causes of high tomato losses, according to the USDA. Small skin breaks, bruises, and abrasions, though little noticed on the mature green fruit, provide an entrance for disease organisms that lead to rot or cause unsightly scars as the tomatoes ripen.

Large types of picking utensils are undesirable because pickers have a tendency to set them on the ground and toss the fruit from a considerable distance in order to avoid carrying them about from vine to vine. Galvanized-iron buckets and 1/2-bushel round stave baskets equipped with wide handles for the comfort of the pickers are among the most satisfactory picking utensils now in use.

But regardless of their size and shape, all picking utensils should be examined carefully for sharp edges, nail points, and rough surfaces which might injure the tomatoes. The USDA reports that some progressive growers have adopted the practice of placing corrugated paper pads or burlap in the bottoms of picking containers to avoid bruising the fruit and prevent the tomatoes from rubbing on any dirt or sand that may accumulate in the container.

Care should also be exercised in transferring the fruit from the picking utensil to the field container to let the fruit roll gently from one to the other. (Hauling tomatoes in bulk from fields in the beds of trucks or trailers is not regarded as a good practice because of the resulting bruises.) For farmers who pack their own tomatoes, the same care should apply all the way through the sorting and packing process.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In All States

Farm Fillers

If the population of the United States continues to increase at its present rate and consumption of meat remains at 151.4 pounds a person--the 1952-54 average--it will take 3-1/3 million more cattle, 2-1/3 million more sheep, and 9 million more pigs to supply the market in 1962. That's an increase of 10 percent required in the next 7 years.

At current crop yields it would take an additional 20 million acres over that used in 1953 to provide feed for this extra livestock. It would require 10 million more acres of hay and pasture and 10 million more acres of feed grains--oats, barley, and grain sorghums. Much of this acreage can be met by shifting from crops now in surplus. The rest will have to be met through increased yields per acre.

A few years ago it took four pounds of feed to produce a pound of broiler chicken meat. This has been cut to less than three. And researchers are now shooting at a target of 2½ pounds of feed per pound of broiler.

Thirty years ago it took five pounds of feed to produce a pound of pork. Research has shown how this can be cut to four.

For more efficient livestock production, farmers need better feed and animals that can make more efficient use of it.

Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a talk by Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, in Athens, Ga.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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Cp. 2

In All States

Farm Fillers

As Americans learn more of the value of vitamins, proteins, iron, and calcium, they are shifting from high calorie foods to more of the protective foods. This is shown in a comparison of our diets in 1953-54 with those of 1935-39. During the past two years, each of us ate an average of 18 percent more daily products (excluding butter), 26 percent more eggs, 27 percent more meat, poultry, and fish, and 16 percent more citrus fruit and tomatoes. We ate 26 percent less potatoes and sweet potatoes and 21 percent fewer grain products.

The biggest increase in our diets has been in meat, poultry, and fish. Today, we're eating more than a fourth more of these high protein foods per person than we ate 20 years ago.

Modern technology has brought improvements not only in production of food but in its distribution. Thirty years ago the groceries we could buy were largely governed by the seasons and limited by the production of farms in the surrounding countryside. Today, thanks to advances in refrigeration and transportation, it's no longer a novelty for the housewife to serve foods grown thousands of miles away.

Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a talk by Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

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DEC 12 1955
AGRICULTURE

All States

Cattle Productivity Up 38 Percent in 30 Years

Cattle productivity in the United States has increased 38 percent during the 30 years from 1924 to 1954, the ______________ Agricultural Extension Service has been advised by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A study made by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service revealed the national increase.

Commenting on the study, (local or state authority said) "Today's cattle are over a third more productive than their ancestors of 30 years ago.

"In 1954, 539 pounds live weight of cattle and calves were produced for each cow on farms at the beginning of the year. This was 148 pounds more than in 1924. Live weight production includes the weight of cows produced and the gain put on cattle during the year.

"Better animals, better care, more feeding, and a swing to beef types account for this increase. Farmers pay more attention to the characteristics and genetic history of breeding cattle than they used to. More productivity is bred into the stock. A higher proportion of cows produce calves, and death losses have been reduced.

"More cattle are now finished on grain feed, and the average carcass weight at slaughter has risen from 474 pounds in 1920-24 to 511 pounds in 1950-54. Also adding to output rates is a higher proportion of cattle and fewer calves in total slaughter.

"Part of the gain in productivity is accounted for by the larger number of beef cattle now in the cattle herd. In 1924 only 35 percent of all cows were beef cows; milk cows outnumbered beef cows about 2 to 1. Now, 50 percent of all cows are beef animals. Beef cattle put on gain faster and more efficiently than dairy cattle."

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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U. S. Will Exhibit Food Products at International Fair This Fall

As part of a campaign to promote the sale of America's agricultural abundance overseas, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is sponsoring a first exhibit of United States food products at an international fair this autumn.

The exhibit will be shown at the Cologne International Food Fair in Cologne, Germany, October 1 to 9. This fair is held every 2 years and is one of the largest of its kind in Europe.

Space for the United States exhibit in the Fair's Hall of Nations has been reserved by the Department of Agriculture. The exhibits themselves will be provided by private trade groups interested in developing new and broader markets for their products, though motion pictures of a general educational nature will be shown by USDA. The general theme of the United States exhibit will be "Better Foods for Better Living."

International trade fairs are a major means by which tradespeople do business in many foreign countries, the USDA reports. Contrasted to the gala occasion of a fair in the United States, the international fair is a more serious event which brings buyers and sellers together to examine products and to conclude business arrangements. The general public is also admitted, and there are some entertainment features, but the chief objective of the foreign trade fair is to demonstrate products of interest to industrial users or the professional trader.

In addition to the United States and Germany, 14 other nations will take part in the Cologne fair, which--as its name indicates--is limited to foodstuffs and allied products. Most exhibits will be devoted to processed and packaged foods.

In inviting private trade groups to take part in the Cologne fair, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson pointed out, "Our potential customers overseas should know more about the competitive quality, price, and nutritional value of our food products. We believe that increased participation in international trade fairs is an effective means by which we can heighten the reputation and demand for these products abroad."

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USDA 2173(8-55)

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Special to Extension Editors

All States

Properly Used, Electric Lights Mean More Winter Eggs

Electric lights in poultry houses, when properly installed and used, can increase fall and winter egg production by as much as 20 to 30 percent under good management conditions, according to ____________________ (State or local authority). Since the price of eggs normally goes up during this period, this extra production is important to a profitable egg business.

____________________ offers the following suggestions for getting the most out of poultry house lighting.

The lighting system should be used every day, beginning sometime between September 1 and 15 and continuing until sometime between April 1 and 15. If lights are used irregularly, the hens may moult and interrupt egg production.

Daylight should be supplemented by electric light to provide from 12 to 14 hours of light daily. Time of sunrise and sunset and the number of daylight hours varies from day to day, but newspapers usually publish this information and this can be used as a guide for providing the needed amount of electric light.

Electric light can be used to give extra hours of light before sunrise or after sunset, or somewhat dimmer lights--just enough for the hens to see their feed and water--may be burned all night. If evening lighting is used, the lights should be dimmed for a few minutes before they are turned off for the night so the hens can find their way to the perches.

At least 60-watt incandescent lamps (or fluorescent lamps of equal light output) should be used for morning or evening lighting. For all-night lighting, 15- to 25-watt lamps are sufficient. One lamp will provide enough light for each 200 square feet of floor space. Direct light should be distributed evenly over the feeding area, with some direct light on perches to bring the hens off the roost.

A 12-inch shallow-dome reflector or a lamp with a built-in reflector will provide better light distribution. Reflectors must be kept clean to be effective. Automatic switches for turning the lamps on or off at any set time and dimming devices for evening lighting are inexpensive and easy to install.

Many power suppliers furnish the help of a farm lighting specialist on request and without charge. These specialists or your county agent can help you plan a new or improved lighting system for your henhouse, says ____________________.

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USDA 2174 (8-55)

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Special to Extension Editors

All States

Scientists Seek Keys to Better Wool Production

U. S. Department of Agriculture livestock breeding specialists are trying to develop sheep able to produce both more meat and better quality wool.

The reason for their work, the scientists explain, is that demand for high-quality wool for clothing fabrics is good, and textile manufacturers will pay more for it. And they are getting some interesting results.

At the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho, the famous Rambouillet breed has been improved for uniformity in fineness of wool, and two new breeds--the Columbia and the Targhee--have been established.

In approximately a decade the proportion of Rambouillet rams at the Dubois station producing strictly fine-staple fleeces has been increased from 92 percent to 98 percent. Wool of these sheep is of uniform fineness and length, free from off-color fibers and weaknesses.

Cooperative studies with private industry and the Idaho experiment station are leading to information about processing differences and spinning properties of wool from individually-identified Targhee sheep. Collection of such data is a time-consuming job, but the scientists believe that it may eventually provide wool growers with a practical guide for selecting and breeding sheep that will produce wool of the quality that brings the highest returns.

In a related study at the Department's Beltsville, Md., Research Center, individual fleeces from sheep of specific breeds used in crossbreeding experiments were scoured and carded to determine the effect of crossbreeding on fleece yields. In this one experiment a higher percentage of clean carded wool was obtained from crossbreds than from their purebred parents.

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USDA 2202 (8-55)

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Temperature Has Greatest Effect on Sprouting of Hard-Coated Seeds

It's not just the humidity--it's the temperature. That is, when it comes to making some hard-coated seeds sprout.

That's the finding of R. R. Robinson of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Regional Pasture Research Laboratory at University Park, Pa.

Ladino clover seeds kept at a constant temperature in the laboratory wouldn't germinate. But when they were kept at about 35° F. and warmed to 70° for just 4 hours once each week or each day, some germinated after each warmup. After months of cold, a 1-day warmup caused many seeds to germinate, and three consecutive warmups resulted in nearly complete germination.

Outdoors, a cycle of warm days and cold nights after fall seeding -- best time for planting ladino clover in the South--caused some shallow-planted seeds to sprout each day. A long cold period after natural reseeding--as in the North--brought about a nearly complete sprouting after about the second warm day of spring.

The deeper the seeds are planted within the soil, the better they are insulated against temperature change, Robinson points out. Buried 6 inches, hard seeds may stay dormant even with abundant moisture.

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USDA 2203 (8-55)

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Special to Extension Editors

In Cotton States (Ala., Ariz., Ark., Calif., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., M,
N. Mex., N. C., Okla., S. C., Tenn., Texas, and Va.)

Modern Cotton Gin Performs Many Functions

Eli Whitney would scarcely recognize the modern cotton gin. Though it still accomplished the basic function of separating lint from seed in much the same way as the original gin, the modern gin is more versatile and has taken on a great many additional jobs. These are described in the September issue of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's magazine, Agricultural Research.

Today's gin adjusts the moisture content of the cotton to the proper level before it begins the separation job. Then it removes burs, green bolls, sticks, leaves, even rocks. After that, it cleans and recleans the cotton before lint and seeds are finally separated.

Another invention, the recipro-cleaner, removes troublesome "motes" (undeveloped seeds) and tiny particles of trash that tangle in the cotton fibers, lowering grade and hampering spinning.

Control of cotton insects has also become a part of present-day ginning. Seed sterilization helps to kill insects that lurk in the seed, such as the pink bollworm. Fans and saws kill worms in gin trash.

Together, these new developments make it possible now to gin high-quality lint from rough-harvested cotton, whereas only 10 years ago mechanically harvested or hand-snapped cotton never rated better after ginning than two grades below lint from hand-picked cotton.

The changes that have taken place have come through Federal, State, and industry research. Ginning improvements developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture are available to the industry through public service patents held by the Department.

Still greater improvements lie ahead, says the USDA. Research can lead the way to: high-speed, low-cost ginning of extra-long-staple cotton; better conditioning of seed cotton before ginning; 100-percent kill of pink bollworms in seed cotton; and removal of grass from lint.

Federal research in most phases of ginning is done in USDA's Cotton Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville, Miss. Research at the USDA laboratory at Mesilla Park, N. Mex., and the State-Federal laboratory at Chicasha, Okla., covers special problems related to cotton varieties and types and harvesting methods. Another laboratory near completion at Clemson, S. C., will similarly serve growers in the Southeast.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In Ariz., Ark., Calif., Colo., N. Mex., Okla., Texas, and Utah

Carrier of Peach Mosaic Found

A tiny mite (spider-like animal), so small that it can be seen only with a microscope, has been identified as the carrier of the destructive peach-mosaic disease.

Finding of the means by which this disease is carried from infected to healthy peach and other stone-fruit trees should lead to better control methods than the present one, which requires removal and destruction of infected trees, says ________________________.
(State or local authority)

The disease itself is caused by a virus, but the means by which it is transferred from diseased to healthy trees was previously unknown, according to ________________________.

The guilty mite was found by USDA entomologists, working in cooperation with the California experiment station, under scales of retarded leaf buds on peach and plum trees. As shoot growth pushes from buds, loosening and flaring the scales, the feeding mites scatter on air currents. Thus they transfer their feeding from infected to healthy trees, and the virus is carried along with them from tree to tree.

A cooperative USDA-States control program for peach mosaic was started in 1934. Since then, more than 400,000 diseased trees have been destroyed in 8 Western and Southwestern States.* Quarantine, inspection, and certification have been used to guard against spread of the disease from nursery stock. This program will continue, says ________________________.

*States to which this release is sent. See above.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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All States

More Pounds of Broiler on Less Feed Is Research Goal

How to produce more pounds of chicken meat on less feed in the shortest possible time is a never-ending problem for ______________ (State) commercial broiler producers, ______________________ (State or local authority) points out.

The same problem is the subject of continuing research by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at its experimental farm, Beltsville, Md.

Pointing out that studies being made by USDA's Agricultural Research Service are of value to ______________ (State) producers, ____________________ said the most recent research showed the advantage goes to those producers using the latest methods in diet, breeding and care.

"These Beltsville tests show," ____________________ said, "that a combination of up-to-date feeds, a modern breed of poultry, and good management can produce a pound of meat on less than 3 pounds of feed. Just 10 years ago, this gain-and-feed ratio was running 1 to 4."

Test feeds selected for the USDA trials included one formula representative of good poultry feeds in 1930, another developed for use in 1944 when high quality ingredients were scarce, and a third that was developed and fed in 1954.

Test birds included: (1) Rhode Island Reds of a strain established at Beltsville in 1925 and selected for egg production rather than rapid growth; (2) New Hampshires bred for both rapid growth and feed efficiency; and (3) crossbreds representing an experimental cross of New Hampshire and Silver Cornish stocks recently developed at Beltsville.

For the tests, researchers separated the chickens so that each feed was tested on one lot of birds of each breed. All groups were placed on feed as day-old chicks.

Results were checked at 10 weeks. Irrespective of breed, the birds grew best on the 1954 feed, followed in order by the 1944 diet and the 1930 diet. The 1954 feed is a high-efficiency diet containing added fat and such feed additives as choline, methionine, and antibiotics, not included in the other diets.

Both the New Hampshires and the crossbreds made better gains on all three feeds than did the Rhode Island Reds. But only the crossbreds achieved the record production of one pound of meat on less than three pounds of feed, gaining 3.2 pounds on 7.8 pounds of feed on the 1954 diet. The New Hampshire gained 3.5 pounds on 10 pounds of 1954 feed.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In 31 We

DEC 12 1955
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Grass Waterways Protect Farmland From Occasional Washouts

As the experienced farmer knows, it's the occasional heavy, gully-forming deluge, not just ordinary rainfall, that puts a farm drainage system to the test. At such times, grass waterways can offer the supplemental drainage needed to protect both land and crops, suggests ______________________.
(State or local authority)

Commenting on the value of grass waterways, ______________ said, "During heavy rains more water falls on nearly all cropland than can be held by the best crop rotations, contour farming, strip cropping, or even terraces.

"This water will run off through some kind of waterway," ______________ said. "Unless you provide a safe waterway, it probably will cut a gully."

Usually it is easiest and cheapest to use a natural depression for a grass waterway to carry the water away safely. On farms where there is no natural depression that can be used, a waterway must be constructed. Help in designing such waterways is available from ____
(county agents, soil conservation technicians, or other source).

Any grass waterway that is to carry extra water safely must be designed to take care of all rains. Its grass cover should be dense, and it must be kept in good condition year after year.

When carefully made and managed, grass waterways will more than pay their way in added farm income, says ______________. Many are used as regular hayfields, some produce grass or legume seed for use on the farm or for sale, and all of them can be pastured at some time during the year, depending upon the kind of grass used.

(more)

Here are some general recommendations offered by ________________ for building and maintaining a dependable grass waterway:

1. Prepare a firm seedbed.
2. Apply 10 to 20 spreader loads of manure per acre.
3. Lime and fertilize as needed.
4. Seed the right kind of grass at the proper time. (Your county agent can advise about the best varieties and time to plant.)
5. Apply mulch immediately after seeding.
6. Protect from washing until grass becomes established.
7. Repair breaks immediately with soil and sod.
8. Topdress occasionally with nitrogen to maintain a dense sod.
9. Clip or graze to maintain a short, dense top growth.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

For: Ariz., Calif., Fla., La., and Tex.

Green Spotting on Citrus Fruit Caused by Bruises

As citrus fruit continues to find more competition on fresh fruit counters, anything which reduces its attraction to the consumer, such as the green spotting sometimes seen on early-season oranges, is likely to lower its market value, ____________________ (State or local authority) reminds ________ (State) citrus growers.

Bruising of citrus fruit in harvesting and hauling it from the field is the cause of green spotting, rather than any faulty handling in the ripening or coloring process, says ____________________.

Research has shown that fruit picked early in the day is much more likely to bruise, and therefore to develop green spots, than that picked in the afternoon, according to ______________. And spotting is especially apt to occur during rainy or foggy periods when fruit is swollen with excess moisture. The least amount of green spotting occurs in fruit picked toward the end of the afternoon on dry, clear days.

In general, oranges are more susceptible to this damage than grapefruit, and some varieties of oranges are more susceptible than others, says ____________________. Of the commercial orange varieties, the Parson is perhaps the most susceptible.

DEC 12 1955

USDA 2398 (9-55)

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In All States

World Agricultural Production Is Keeping Abreast of Population Increases

World agricultural production, excluding countries in the Communist bloc, was more than 25 percent greater in 1954 than in 1946-47, according to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Reviewing agricultural development of the decade since the end of World War II, and since its own birth in 1945, the FAO says that food production in areas outside the Communist bloc has slightly outweighed growth in population since before the war. Consequently production per head is slightly above prewar levels.

Leaving out the Communist bloc, for which figures are still incomplete, the world is now, for instance, producing about 20 percent more rice, milk, and cotton than before the war; about 30 percent more wheat, fats and meat; 50 percent more fruit and sugar; and 80 percent more natural rubber.

Against this background of greater abundance, the FAO Report shows, however, that in many Far Eastern and in some Latin American countries the consumption of food per person still remains below the very inadequate prewar levels. Generally, over large parts of the world the problem is not yet solved of providing people with the means to buy as much food as they need.

The striking aspect of trade in agricultural products, according to the FAO Report, has been the change in the pattern. Up to 1952, North American food exports were 3 to 4 times as much as before the war, but then began to decline with the recovery of production in other parts of the world. On the other hand, food exports from the Far East are still less than half the prewar volume. European food imports, which shortly after the war were unusually high, seem to have settled down at about 10 percent lower than before the war while North America's food imports show a slowly rising trend and Latin American food imports, although they have increased sharply, remain relatively small.

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For Conn., Del., Maine, Md., Mass., N. H., N. J., N. Y., N. C., Pa., R. I., Vt., Va., and W. Va.

Storage Life of Apples Depends Partly on Variety

"How long will apples keep well in storage?" is a question frequently asked at this time of year of the ________________ (State) Extension Service.

The length of time that apples can be kept in storage and still retain sufficiently high quality for marketing depends in large part upon the variety of apple, when other things such as storage treatment and state of maturity at harvest are equal, reports ________________________ (State or local authority).

Mr. ______________ cites research carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on changes that take place in eastern-grown apples during storage as a useful guide to the approximate length of time that common varieties can be expected to keep under normal commercial storage conditions.

At 31° F. Winesap, Stayman, and York Imperial keep comparatively well for up to 30 weeks, Delicious for 26 to 28 weeks, Golden Delicious for 16 to 18 week, and Grimes Golden for only 8 to 9 weeks, the USDA research showed.

The apples studied by the Department were held in storage at 31° F. and tests were made monthly on sample lots, both as they were taken from storage and after they had been held for a week at a temperature of 70° F. The object was to determine the changes that take place in storage and how well the apples would stand up under a marketing period of approximately 1 week after storage.

The apples were analyzed for firmness, for sugar and starch content, and for the volume of juice. Apples were considered to be ripe for eating when they were firm in texture, juicy, not starchy, and desirable for eating raw by those who do not prefer a soft, mellow fruit.

Apples remain alive even after they are picked from the tree, explains ______________________________. At ordinary room temperatures they complete their life processes at a rather rapid rate. Storing them at the usual cold-storage temperature of 31° to 32° F. slows down these processes, prolonging the useful life of the fruit and making it available for sale or use when tree-ripened fruit is no longer obtainable. If stored apples are not kept too long for the variety, and storage and other conditions are favorable, they should have nearly the same quality as those ripened and used soon after removal from the tree.

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For Ala., Ark., Calif., Del., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Md., Miss., N. C.
Okla., S. C., Tenn., Tex., Va., and W. Va.

DEC 12 1955
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Lots of Hay on U. S. Farms

Hay is a nearly universal farm product. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports in the September issue of its monthly publication, The Agricultural Situation, that only corn is grown on more farms than hay, and on larger total acreage.

Hay production in 1955 is now expected to exceed all previous records with a total of 109 million tons. That's enough, according to USDA, to fill nearly a thousand fields the size of Yankee Stadium, piled 200 feet high with hay compressed into bales--or about twice that many with loose hay.

Although most hay is intended for feeding on farms where it is grown, in some States growers consider it a regular cash crop. Of the 1954 hay crop of 104 million tons, about 14 million tons were sold--nearly one-eighth of the crop. This tonnage brought farmers about 309 million dollars.

We've got a lot of hay, says the USDA, but it's not all good quality. Much of it is weedy, or cut too ripe and nearly devoid of leaves. Often it is unpalatable and low in feed value.

Farmers could improve the hay crop through better hayland management and improved harvesting methods, suggests the USDA. State and Federal research is constantly developing better varieties and mixtures of hay for particular areas and special uses.

Note to Editors: You may wish to list recommended varieties and mixtures for hay produced in your State.

For Ala., Ark., Del., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Md., Miss., N. C., Okla.,
S. C., Tenn., Tex., Va., and W. Va.

Feed Grain Supplies Better Distributed This Year

Supplies of feed grains, though unusually heavy, this year are much better distributed by areas than in the past 2 or 3 years, according to a report from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Last year, supplies were large in the Corn Belt, but in most of the Southern States, drought severely curtailed growth of corn and hay. This year supplies in the Southern States are the largest since 1950.

Total feed grain production in the south Atlantic region is 37 percent larger than in 1954, with practically all of the increase in corn. In the south central region larger corn and sorghum grain crops resulted in a 32-percent increase in feed grain production.

Nationally, the prospective feed grain supply for 1955-56 is about 10 percent larger than the record supply last year and 15 percent above the 1949-53 average, despite sharply reduced corn and sorghum grain crops in the Midwest owing to August drought.

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SERIAL RECORD DEC 12 1955 U. S. DEPA

Natural Freeze Drying Makes Potatoes Good Livestock Feed

Potato producers are faced this year with the problem of too many potatoes, but in Northern States natural freeze-drying can turn those excess "spuds" into a very acceptable livestock feed, says ____________________ (State or local authority). This ancient method of preservation also makes it possible to extend the potato feeding season as far as late spring or early summer, according to __________.

Though the practice of preserving potatoes by this method is familiar to many farmers, the most practical methods of freeze-drying and the value of the potatoes as a feed have not been so well understood. To provide this information, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been carrying on some studies in cooperation with the Maine State Experiment Station. Mr. __________ reports some of the practical information arising from this work.

The easiest method of exposing the potatoes, it was found, is to spread them on the open ground. Layers no more than 6 to 8 inches deep are better than deeper layers. Potatoes should be spread early enough in the winter to assure exposure to severe freezes.

Animals can eat the field-dried potatoes directly from the ground. Tests in Minnesota showed that steers will eat such potatoes readily and without ill effects. In 2 out of 3 trials between 1951 and 1954, steers fed potatoes plus pasture made definitely better gains than steers fed pasture alone.

Freeze-dried potatoes show no decay. Apparently they are preserved by a fermentation process, which takes place with the alternate freezing and thawing. Very little starch--about 8 percent--is lost. About 97 percent of the sugar is lost, 84 percent of the nitrogen compounds, and 34 percent of the crude fiber.

Apparently some of the nutrients lost by potatoes spread on the ground for freeze-drying are gained by the soil. In the USDA tests grass grew better where potatoes were spread for drying.

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USDA 2485 (9-55)

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Research May Lead to Crops With Higher Food Values

How the nutritional value of foods and feeds is affected by soil, fertilization, climate, and other factors is thus far a little-explored area of agricultural research.

A limited amount of work has been done in this field by various State experiment stations and by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The results point to a rich source of knowledge that can be tapped to help meet future nutritional requirements.

USDA workers found, for instance, that the amount of vitamin C varies in tomatoes grown in different areas. Further investigation showed that intensity of sunlight was the cause.

Potatoes also differ widely in amounts of vitamin C. But in potatoes the difference was found to be inherited. The Department of Agriculture is now breeding some high-vitamin-C varieties.

The Georgia Experiment Station, testing the nutritional quality of turnip greens, found that laboratory rats thrived better on turnip greens grown in one part of Georgia than on similar turnip greens from another part of the State. The better greens were found to contain a vitamin B_{12}-like substance which the poorer greens lacked. Researchers are looking to soil bacteria, organic matter, and soil minerals for an explanation.

North Carolina research has shown that sheep and cattle dependent on forage from soils deficient in cobalt are unthrifty. In this case, the condition can be corrected by the addition of a trace of cobalt sulfate to the soil or to the animals' diet.

Plants need a trace of such minerals as molybdenum, manganese, and zinc, but too much will poison livestock. Research thus far into the causes of this points to a delicate balance between the nutritional quality of feeds and the ability of animals to make use of them. Much remains to be learned in this area.

Hay from a heavily fertilized timothy crop was fed to 3-month-old calves in New Hampshire. The calves formed a goiter-like enlargement of the thyroid and failed to gain normally until other hay was substituted. Similar results were obtained when the hay was fed to rabbits. Reasons for this are not yet understood, but excessive phosphorus is thought to be a factor.

Research indicates that more basic knowledge of nutrition and of soil-plant-animal nutrient relationships will undoubtedly lead to discoveries that can eventually be put to practical farm use.

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Special to Extension Editors

DEC 1 - 1955
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In Ill., Ind., Iowa, Minn., Mo., Nebr., Ohio, S. Dak., and Wisc.

Planting Corn on Contoured Ridges Reduces Soil and Water Loss

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After rainfall in a listed field, the soil remains wet near the surface and maximum moisture is found at a 4-inch depth. In ridge farming, the moisture content of the soil increased with depth, and the maximum amount of moisture was found 7 inches below the surface.

Where starter fertilizer was used, the ridge also retained nitrogen much better at a 3-inch depth, and somewhat better at a 6-inch depth, than did the soil under a lister furrow. The soil was found to be 1 to 8 degrees warmer at the 3-inch depth than at the same depth under a lister furrow, and slightly warmer than at the same depth in a normal level surface. This may explain the improved nitrogen content, though the experimenters also point out that soluble nutrients in the lister furrow are more likely to be dissolved and carried off the field in runoff water.

Ridge farming for the Corn Belt shows sufficient promise for more efficient corn production, especially on problem farms, that the Iowa experiments are being extended and broadened. They will include studies that compare results of various fertilization and weed-control methods and equipment on ridged and flat plots.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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DEC 12 195
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

All States

Farm Fillers

Bulk tanks have replaced the old milk can on at least 15,000 United States dairy farms. Most of this chore-saving change has taken place since 1951, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Whoever thought of a city producing a crop of cotton? But cities do "produce" cotton, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The total city crop, estimated at around 40,000 bales, is rebaled samples and pickings from cotton damaged by weather and fire. Of course this is only a drop in a cotton bag compared with the estimated total supply this year--24 million bales--but even city cotton is included in estimates of cotton production, supply, and carryover, according to the USDA.

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If Americans still consumed wheat at the same rate per person as we did in 1909, our present population would take about 360 million bushels of wheat a year more than the 474 million bushels it now consumes, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The longtime decline in per-person consumption of wheat has been accompanied by increasing emphasis on a greater variety of foods in the American diet. Less bread, potatoes, and cornmeal are used, but much more of processed vegetables and fruit, poultry and eggs, and some dairy products.

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USDA 2540 (9-55)

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All States

Americans Are Drinking More Milk

Americans are drinking more milk and eating more of other dairy products, according to a report from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1953 each person used the equivalent of only 688 pounds of milk, consuming it in the form of all dairy products such as butter, cheese, ice cream, as well as fluid milk. This was the smallest quantity since as far back as figures are available--1924.

But in 1954 the picture improved. Consumption per person rose to average about 700 pounds. And indications are that it will be slightly higher than that in 1955, on the basis of figures thus far available.

The Agricultural Marketing Service gives several reasons for increased consumption of milk in 1954. Retail prices went down slightly when supports were reduced in April 1954. Consumer incomes started to rise in the last quarter of 1954, making it possible for many people to afford more dairy foods. Increased consumption was also aided by Government disposal programs and by an industry promotional campaign. Advertisers stressed the fact that people of all ages need milk to keep healthy. And in many offices and public buildings, vending machines made it easier for workers, travelers, and others to buy sweet milk, buttermilk, and flavored milk drinks.

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USDA 2541 (9-55)

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In Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Miss., N. C., S. C., Okla., Tenn., Tex., Va.

Modern Sheep Shelters and Equipment for Southern States Described in New Publication

State agricultural colleges and Extension Services of 13 Southern States have collaborated with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in developing plans for modern, efficient sheep shelters and equipment especially adapted to conditions in the South. The results of this collaboration are now available to Southern sheepmen through their State Extension Services.

The best and most representative of the plans which were developed from this State-Federal cooperative effort have been drawn together and are presented in a new publication of the Department of Agriculture. The plans are described with a maximum of pictures and drawings and a minimum of printed material. Included are plans for sheepsheds, laborsaving feeding equipment, weighing and shipping crates, wool-packing equipment, parting and loading chutes, and a dipping vat.

More complete working plans for building structures and equipment for sheep management in ________________ (State) can be obtained from ______________________________ (county agents or other State source). The publication is useful for giving an overall view of the various types of equipment most useful for handling sheep in the South.

A single copy of Agriculture Handbook No. 90, Sheep Shelters and Equipment for Southern States, may be obtained from ____________________ (State source) (or the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.)

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Note to Editors: You may wish to hold this release if copies are not yet available in your State.

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For Conn., Del., Maine, Md., Mass., N. H., N. J., N. Y., N. C., Pa.,
R. I., Vt., Va., and W. Va.

Storage Life of Apples Depends Partly on Variety

"How long will apples keep well in storage?" is a question frequently asked at this time of year of the ________________ (State) Extension Service.

The length of time that apples can be kept in storage and still retain sufficiently high quality for marketing depends in large part upon the variety of apple, when other things such as storage treatment and state of maturity at harvest are equal, reports ________________________ (State or local authority).

Mr. ________________ cites research carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on changes that take place in eastern-grown apples during storage as a useful guide to the approximate length of time that common varieties can be expected to keep under normal commercial storage conditions.

At 31° F. Winesap, Stayman, and York Imperial keep comparatively well for up to 30 weeks, Delicious for 26 to 28 weeks, Golden Delicious for 16 to 18 week, and Grimes Golden for only 8 to 9 weeks, the USDA research showed.

The apples studied by the Department were held in storage at 31° F. and tests were made monthly on sample lots, both as they were taken from storage and after they had been held for a week at a temperature of 70° F. The object was to determine the changes that take place in storage and how well the apples would stand up under a marketing period of approximately 1 week after storage.

The apples were analyzed for firmness, for sugar and starch content, and for the volume of juice. Apples were considered to be ripe for eating when they were firm in texture, juicy, not starchy, and desirable for eating raw by those who do not prefer a soft, mellow fruit.

Apples remain alive even after they are picked from the tree, explains ______________________________. At ordinary room temperatures they complete their life processes at a rather rapid rate. Storing them at the usual cold-storage temperature of 31° to 32° F. slows down these processes, prolonging the useful life of the fruit and making it available for sale or use when tree-ripened fruit is no longer obtainable. If stored apples are not kept too long for the variety, and storage and other conditions are favorable, they should have nearly the same quality as those ripened and used soon after removal from the tree.

USDA 2458 (9-55)

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For Ala., Ark., Calif., Del., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Md., Miss., N. C.,
Okla., S. C., Tenn., Tex., Va., and W. Va.

SERIAL RECORD
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Lots of Hay on U. S. Farms

Hay is a nearly universal farm product. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports in the September issue of its monthly publication, The Agricultural Situation, that only corn is grown on more farms than hay, and on larger total acreage.

Hay production in 1955 is now expected to exceed all previous records with a total of 109 million tons. That's enough, according to USDA, to fill nearly a thousand fields the size of Yankee Stadium, piled 200 feet high with hay compressed into bales--or about twice that many with loose hay.

Although most hay is intended for feeding on farms where it is grown, in some States growers consider it a regular cash crop. Of the 1954 hay crop of 104 million tons, about 14 million tons were sold--nearly one-eighth of the crop. This tonnage brought farmers about 309 million dollars.

We've got a lot of hay, says the USDA, but it's not all good quality. Much of it is weedy, or cut too ripe and nearly devoid of leaves. Often it is unpalatable and low in feed value.

Farmers could improve the hay crop through better hayland management and improved harvesting methods, suggests the USDA. State and Federal research is constantly developing better varieties and mixtures of hay for particular areas and special uses.

Note to Editors: You may wish to list recommended varieties and mixtures for hay produced in your State.

For Ala., Ark., Del., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Md., Miss., N. C., Okla.,
S. C., Tenn., Tex., Va., and W. Va.

Feed Grain Supplies Better Distributed This Year

Supplies of feed grains, though unusually heavy, this year are much better distributed by areas than in the past 2 or 3 years, according to a report from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Last year, supplies were large in the Corn Belt, but in most of the Southern States, drought severely curtailed growth of corn and hay. This year supplies in the Southern States are the largest since 1950.

Total feed grain production in the south Atlantic region is 37 percent larger than in 1954, with practically all of the increase in corn. In the south central region larger corn and sorghum grain crops resulted in a 32-percent increase in feed grain production.

Nationally, the prospective feed grain supply for 1955-56 is about 10 percent larger than the record supply last year and 15 percent above the 1949-53 average, despite sharply reduced corn and sorghum grain crops in the Midwest owing to August drought.

USDA 2460 (9-55)

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Special to Extension Editors

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Natural Freeze Drying Makes Potatoes Good Livestock Feed

Potato producers are faced this year with the problem of too many potatoes, but in Northern States natural freeze-drying can turn those excess "spuds" into a very acceptable livestock feed, says ______________________ (State or local authority). This ancient method of preservation also makes it possible to extend the potato feeding season as far as late spring or early summer, according to __________.

Though the practice of preserving potatoes by this method is familiar to many farmers, the most practical methods of freeze-drying and the value of the potatoes as a feed have not been so well understood. To provide this information, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been carrying on some studies in cooperation with the Maine State Experiment Station. Mr. __________ reports some of the practical information arising from this work.

The easiest method of exposing the potatoes, it was found, is to spread them on the open ground. Layers no more than 6 to 8 inches deep are better than deeper layers. Potatoes should be spread early enough in the winter to assure exposure to severe freezes.

Animals can eat the field-dried potatoes directly from the ground. Tests in Minnesota showed that steers will eat such potatoes readily and without ill effects. In 2 out of 3 trials between 1951 and 1954, steers fed potatoes plus pasture made definitely better gains than steers fed pasture alone.

Freeze-dried potatoes show no decay. Apparently they are preserved by a fermentation process, which takes place with the alternate freezing and thawing. Very little starch--about 8 percent--is lost. About 97 percent of the sugar is lost, 84 percent of the nitrogen compounds, and 34 percent of the crude fiber.

Apparently some of the nutrients lost by potatoes spread on the ground for freeze-drying are gained by the soil. In the USDA tests grass grew better where potatoes were spread for drying.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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Special to Extension Editors

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGR.

To All States

Research May Lead to Crops With Higher Food Values

How the nutritional value of foods and feeds is affected by soil, fertilization, climate, and other factors is thus far a little-explored area of agricultural research.

A limited amount of work has been done in this field by various State experiment stations and by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The results point to a rich source of knowledge that can be tapped to help meet future nutritional requirements.

USDA workers found, for instance, that the amount of vitamin C varies in tomatoes grown in different areas. Further investigation showed that intensity of sunlight was the cause.

Potatoes also differ widely in amounts of vitamin C. But in potatoes the difference was found to be inherited. The Department of Agriculture is now breeding some high-vitamin-C varieties.

The Georgia Experiment Station, testing the nutritional quality of turnip greens, found that laboratory rats thrived better on turnip greens grown in one part of Georgia than on similar turnip greens from another part of the State. The better greens were found to contain a vitamin B_{12}-like substance which the poorer greens lacked. Researchers are looking to soil bacteria, organic matter, and soil minerals for an explanation.

North Carolina research has shown that sheep and cattle dependent on forage from soils deficient in cobalt are unthrifty. In this case, the condition can be corrected by the addition of a trace of cobalt sulfate to the soil or to the animals' diet.

Plants need a trace of such minerals as molybdenum, manganese, and zinc, but too much will poison livestock. Research thus far into the causes of this points to a delicate balance between the nutritional quality of feeds and the ability of animals to make use of them. Much remains to be learned in this area.

Hay from a heavily fertilized timothy crop was fed to 3-month-old calves in New Hampshire. The calves formed a goiter-like enlargement of the thyroid and failed to gain normally until other hay was substituted. Similar results were obtained when the hay was fed to rabbits. Reasons for this are not yet understood, but excessive phosphorus is thought to be a factor.

Research indicates that more basic knowledge of nutrition and of soil-plant-animal nutrient relationships will undoubtedly lead to discoveries that can eventually be put to practical farm use.

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USDA 2493 (9-55)

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In Ill., Ind., Iowa, Minn., Mo., Nebr., Ohio, S. Dak., and Wisc.

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After rainfall in a listed field, the soil remains wet near the surface and maximum moisture is found at a 4-inch depth. In ridge farming, the moisture content of the soil increased with depth, and the maximum amount of moisture was found 7 inches below the surface.

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In All States

DHIA Testing and Recordkeeping Improve Our Dairy Herds

Fifty years ago high-producing dairy cows were rare even in well-managed herds. Today, high producers are the rule in every good herd. Much of this change has come about through the efforts of Dairy Herd Improvement Associations with their organized testing and recordkeeping programs, says ________________ (State Extension ________________ . dairyman or county agent)

In 1906, Helmer Rabild, an inspector for the Michigan Dairy and Food Department, convinced a group of dairymen that they should undertake a program of continuous testing and recordkeeping for their herds. This plan, Rabild told the dairymen, was helping to improve dairy herds in his native Denmark.

In that initial year, 31 herds--239 cows--were registered and tested by the first Dairy Herd Improvement Association. They produced an average of 5,300 pounds of milk and 215 pounds of butterfat. The average for all cows milked in this country that year was 3,646 pounds of milk and 146 pounds of butterfat.

Results of the program thus begun almost 50 years ago have been almost unbelievable, says ________________. In 1954, the latest year for which full records are available, there were 2,175 Dairy Herd Improvement Associations representing 41,254 herds and more than 1,300,000 dairy cattle. The DHIA cows averaged 9,363 pounds of milk and 372 pounds of butterfat, as compared with a national average for all cows of 5,447 pounds of milk and 213 pounds of butterfat.

Three fundamental practices, made possible by DHIA records, are responsible for much of this improvement in American dairy herds over the years, says ________________. They are (1) culling unprofitable cows, (2) feeding the remaining cows according to their production, and (3) selecting the best breeding stock.

Dairymen organize, maintain, and control their own associations. They hire and pay a supervisor who tests all cows in each herd every month and maintains records. The testing is done under basic rules established by the American Dairy Science Association. At the end of the year, a 12-month record for each cow and each herd is computed from the records maintained in each owner's herd book. This book is used by the owner as a guide in the management of his cows.

Work in each State is under the guidance of county agricultural agents and the State extension dairyman. Yearly records are sent to Washington for analysis and filing by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Husbandry Research Branch, which furnishes the record forms.

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Special to Extension Editors

In Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., Mo., N. C., S. C., Tenn. & Tex.

Research Shows Comparative Values of Beef Cattle Feeds for South

To find profit-making methods for feeding beef cattle in the South is an object of research at Mississippi's Delta Branch Experiment Station at Stoneville. Researchers at the station are seeking ways to reduce the total grain requirement for cattle without sacrificing profitable gains and still obtain choice finish within a reasonable time. Their work supplements other Federal-State research in forage crops and use of byproducts such as cottonseed hulls, gin trash, and soybean straw.

Here are some of the most important findings thus far regarding comparative value of several feeding materials generally available in the South.

Gin trash has proved of little value in wintering cattle unless it is supplemented by other feeds. Gin trash at the rate of about 13 pounds a day, plus 1.5 pounds of cottonseed meal, 2 pounds of hay, and 0.56 pound of blackstrap molasses, resulted in average daily gains of about two-thirds of a pound. This compares with an average total loss of 5 pounds in 64 days in steers given only gin trash and 1.5 pounds of cottonseed meal daily. Another group of steers fed 14.5 pounds of gin trash and 3.5 pounds of a protein supplement per day gained an average of three-quarters of a pound daily over the same period of time.

Soybean straw proved a better wintering feed than cottonseed hulls. Cattle used in this experiment were limited to 15 pounds daily of either of these materials, supplemented by 1.5 pounds of cottonseed meal. On the soybean straw plus cottonseed meal, gains averaged 43 pounds in 64 days--on cottonseed hulls plus cottonseed meal, 38 pounds. Researchers point out that use of the straw, which can be baled right behind the harvester-combine, provides a good outlet for material that ordinarily is wasted.

In finishing beef cattle, the feed value of oats has been compared with that of corn and other grains. Oats were fed as the only grain in one experiment, corn alone in another, and mixtures of these grains in still others. Barley was also included in some mixtures. Researchers found that oats would produce choice beef, but less feed was consumed as the oat content of the ration increased, resulting in lower daily gains and a longer feeding period. Exclusively corn-fed steers graded choice after 101 days in the drylot--oat-fed steers after 150 days.

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All States

Continue Mowing Lawn in Fall Advises ______________

Don't put that lawn mower away too soon.

Your lawn needs mowing just as long as it continues to grow in the fall, says ________________________ (State or local authority) (or U. S. Department of Agriculture lawn specialist F. V. Juska).

It's an old-fashioned idea, says __________________, to let lawn grass grow long in the fall and remain that way over winter. Ideally, a lawn should be kept in such condition that no more than an inch of top growth is ever cut off at one time. Recent research has shown that it is harmful to cut off too much of the top at once.

If, for some reason, grass growth does get too far ahead of you, as happens sometimes in the best-managed households, then by all means remove the clippings after you mow, says ____________________. Loss of a large portion of its top growth plus being smothered by long clippings is enough to kill even well-established grasses.

When the lawn is mowed often enough so that clippings average between a half inch and an inch, it is generally beneficial to allow the clippings to remain where they fall. As they decompose, says __________________, they will add humus and help to maintain or improve the condition of the soil.

Another good reason for keeping the lawn mowed in the fall, according to ______________________, is that tall grass provides a favorable place for insects and plant diseases to hibernate over winter.

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In All States

Fall Is Good Season To Repair Grub Damage to Lawn

Lawn look raggedy and brown in spots? Can you pull up handfuls of dead or dying grass by the roots? It sounds like grub damage, says ______________ (State or local authority) (or U. S. Department of Agriculture lawn specialists).

Grubs are the larvae of beetles, spending the early stages of their life cycles underground. They fatten up on the succulent roots of grasses and other plants while they wait for the favorable climate of another warm season when they will emerge from the soil as full-grown insects.

The lawn is a favorite spot for beetles to lay their eggs and for their young to hibernate over winter, says ______________. The effects of their eating can be seen in patches of dead or dying grass.

If you suspect the presence of grubs in your lawn, turn over the top 2 inches or so of sod to expose the root area in a damaged spot. The soft-bodied, wingless, wormlike grubs will be readily apparent if they--and not drought or other unfavorable conditions--are the cause of the damage.

A number of chemicals readily available in garden supply stores are effective for killing grubs in lawns, says ______________. Some of these are chlordane, DDT (except for May beetles), dieldrin, aldrin, and heptachlor. These may be applied as a spray or in powder form, possibly mixed with fertilizer. In either case, follow the directions of the manufacturer, both as to amount applied and method of application, says ______________.

Since the grubs remain beneath the soil surface, it is necessary to wash the insecticide into the soil after it is applied. This can be done with a garden sprinkler, or the application can be made before an expected rain.

After killing the grubs, reseed large brown spots with grasses adapted to your area and the amount of sunlight available on your lawn, says ______________. In an otherwise healthy lawn, small areas will fill in naturally without reseeding.

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In All States

New Herbicides Aid in Rebuilding Pastureland

In rebuilding low-quality pastures, one effective method is to begin by killing the persistent native grasses with herbicides, reports __________ (local authority). The land can then be prepared for reseeding by disking 2 or 3 times. This makes an erosion-resistant seedbed for rough or steep land.

__________ cites some new research findings that make this method more practical.

New Jersey experiment station and USDA scientists have tested two economical new herbicides for this purpose, and found that they will kill grasses, but not other weeds and brush. The herbicides are DPA (2,2-dichloropropionic acid) and AT (3-amino 1,2,4-triazole).

Six to eight pounds of DPA or 4 to 8 pounds of AT per acre, applied 1 month before fall seeding or applied in November before spring seeding, cleared the way for successful seedbed preparation and seeding of new grasses and legumes. A mixture of 2 pounds of DPA and 4 pounds of AT was found to be even more effective.

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In All States

Dutch Make Fresh Butter From Frozen Cream

Keeping butter in acceptable condition over an extended period of storage is a problem encountered in all dairy-surplus countries. The Dutch have come up with a new answer to this old problem.

Instead of storing butter, they freeze cream and make butter from it as the need arises, according to a report in the October issue of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's monthly magazine, Foreign Agriculture.

Twelve Netherlands dairies that participated in experimental production of butter from frozen cream reported that the butter not only tastes like fresh butter but it has a higher vitamin A content than fresh butter and is easier to spread.

In one method used, warm fresh milk was added to the partly thawed cream. The mixture was gradually heated under constant agitation or by circulation through a pasteurizer. After pasteurization, starter and fresh cream were added in the souring tank.

In another method, the thawed cream alone was heated, pasteurized, and thoroughly chilled; then sour fresh cream or sour skim milk of above-normal acidity was added in the churn.

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USDA 2763 (10-55)

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In All States

Fast Travel Makes Animal Disease Control More Difficult

Travel so fast that it outruns the normal incubation period of nearly all animal diseases presents a special problem in disease control, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or a local authority).

Last year, for the first time in U. S. history, overseas exports of cattle were greater by air than by ocean vessel, according to the USDA. Also, more than 90 percent of our imported poultry came by air and about 75 percent of our imported horses.

Imports and vehicles must be checked carefully both before and after shipment to insure that they bring us no foreign diseases. In many cases insect or other possible carriers are already present, and only the disease agent itself is needed to cause an outbreak with which we have had no experience. The quarantine and inspection activities of USDA guard against such an emergency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., S. C., and Tex.

Secret of Heat Resistance in Asiatic Cattle Still Unknown

The superior heat resistance of Sindhi and Brahman cattle has often been attributed to their outsize dewlaps, big ears, and characteristic humps, which were supposed to act as a kind of air-conditioning equipment. However, recent tests at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's research center at Beltsville, Md., do not support this theory.

Hump and dewlap were almost as well developed in a three-quarter blood Sindhi as in a purebred animal, but heat tolerance was only slightly better than in a halfbreed. A one-quarter blood Sindhi retained little of the hump or dewlap, but its heat tolerance was only slightly less than that of the halfbreed.

Also, removal of the dewlap from a purebred Sindhi bull caused no change in his ability to withstand heat.

Sindhi and Brahman cattle are being widely used by Federal, State, and private researchers in an effort to develop heat-resistant strains of beef and dairy cattle for Southern States. A part of this work is to determine the cause of the heat resistance so it can be bred into more productive animals.

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USDA 2783 (10-55)

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DEC 1 1955

In Conn., Del., Maine, Md., Mass., N. H., N. J., N. Y.,
Pa., R. I., Vt., and W. Va.

Alfalfa Grown With Grass Makes Excellent Pasture

Alfalfa, grown in combination with grasses, has proved to be an ideal pasture legume in experiments at University Park (formerly State College), Pa.

Research, carried on cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State experiment station, points to alfalfa as the key to better pastures in the Northeast.

Used by Eastern farmers in the past almost exclusively as a hay crop, alfalfa has proved to have a number of advantages when grown with grasses for pasture. If properly managed, it withstands pasture traffic well, gives better seasonal distribution of grazing, and provides a good supply of high-quality feed in the mixture. Its deep root system makes it resistant to drought, and it quickly resumes growth after cutting or grazing.

Success with alfalfa, the Pennsylvania experiments show, depends upon allowing time for adequate regrowth after grazing or cutting. But the first cutting or grazing may be made when the plant is in full bud, rather than waiting until the customary one-tenth bloom stage, thus allowing an extra grazing during the summer when pasturage is likely to be short.

At University Park the pasture was allowed to recover after the original cuttings until the alfalfa started to bloom again--in about 4 weeks. Then it was ready for 7 to 10 days good grazing. This system permitted 4 grazings instead of 2 or 3, and a satisfactory stand was kept for 5 years or longer.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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In All States

Some Livestock Ailments Traced to Mineral Abnormalities in Soil

Agricultural research is revealing a relationship between some animal ailments and the mineral contents of soils upon which they live, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or a local authority).

For some time it has been known that runtiness of ruminant animals in some Eastern areas is caused by cobalt deficiency in the soils and crops there. More recently, mineral poisoning is suspected to be the cause of physical deformities in cattle on western rangelands.

To locate mineral abnormalities in soils is a big job, reports the USDA, and much work lies ahead in this field of research. One promising method makes use of "indicator" plants--those that store trace minerals plentifully and in proportion to their content in the soil. More knowledge is needed before measures to counteract the effects of these soil abnormalities can be prescribed.

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USDA 2797 (10-55)

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In All States

______________ Farm Land Values Up (or Down) ____ Percent From Last Year
(State)

A report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on current developments in the farm real estate market as of July shows a continued upward trend (no change, or a decline) in market prices of farm land in ______________ (State) this year.*

Farm land values in ______________ (State) rose (or fell) ____ percent between March and July 1955, bringing them ____ percent above (or below) their general level as of July 1954.

Nationally, a continued moderate advance in dollar value of U. S. farm land during the first half of 1955 brought farm real estate values back to their previous peak reached in late 1952, following the Korean outbreak.

Compared with a year earlier, farm land values in 36 States showed gains of 2 percent or more this July and the National average increase was 5 percent. Largest increases occurred in the central Corn Belt, where gains ranged from 5 to 8 percent. But similar increases occurred in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. Only three States--Maine, Vermont, and Wyoming--reported values significantly below a year earlier.

The strength in land values, according to the Department of Agriculture, appears to be based in part on strong demand for additional land to enlarge existing farms and permit more efficient use of farm machinery. More available credit is also given as a factor, plus favorable crop prospects at mid-1955, and a generally favorable outlook in the national economy.

More than two-thirds of the farms and farm tracts sold in 1954 and the first half of 1955 were bought by farmers, and farmers who already owned some land were the principal class of farmer-buyers.

*Note to Editors: Changes for your State are shown in maps on pages 1 and 2 of the attached report, Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market.

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In All States

Testing and Vaccination Are Keys to Brucellosis Eradication

Testing and calf vaccination are the necessary first steps in wiping out brucellosis from cattle herds, ____________________ (local or State authority) reminds ______ (area) cattlemen.

During the year that ended in June 1955, nearly a million herds and more than 14 million cattle were tested for this disease, and nearly 4½ million calves were vaccinated, under an expanded Federal-State eradication program.

About 2½ percent of all cattle on United States farms are still infected with brucellosis, according to a report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. When the program was started in 1934, the rate of infection was approximately 11 percent.

Cooperating Federal-State authorities are hopeful that with increased cooperation from the industry this costly cattle disease can be completely eradicated from the United States within a few more years. Three States* have already been certified as modified brucellosis free. Several more States** hope to attain this status by June 30, 1956, and practically all remaining States have set a goal for similar certification by 1960.

A recent change in Federal policy provides for veterinarians cooperating in this program to be paid on a per-herd and per-head basis. As a result, the number of practicing veterinarians working on a Federal-fee basis has increased from 124 to approximately 4,000 since September 1954.

Information about benefits available to farmers under this program can be obtained from ____________________ (county agent or other source).

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*North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Maine.
**Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Washington.

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In All States

Farm Fillers

During the past decade, consumption per person of frozen fruits and fruit juices increased more than 10 times, according to a report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. But consumption per person of all fruits and juices declined from a high of about 225 pounds in 1946 to 193 pounds in 1954.

The 1954 total consumption was made up about as follows: fresh fruit, 53 percent; canned, 24 percent; frozen, 16 percent; and dried, 7 percent.

Frozen foods now account for about 5 percent of the total sales of chain retail food stores, and somewhat less for independent stores, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Optimistic trade predictions claim that frozen food sales will reach 15 percent of total grocery store sales within the next 10 years.

Possibly 50,000 farms were absorbed by the farm-enlargement process in 1954, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture, with about a third of all farms and farm tracts sold being bought for the purpose of farm enlargement. During the same year, around 10,000 new farms were established from parts of existing farms.

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Special to Extension Editors

In All States

USDA Study Gives Tips for Extending Storage Life of Lettuce

Field-trimmed lettuce will keep better than untrimmed lettuce or lettuce that is trimmed just before storage. This information comes from a marketing research study carried out by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Tests were made by the Department for the United States Navy as part of a continuing study on how to extend the storage life of vegetables eaten raw. Results show that almost as much edible lettuce is obtained from 26 pounds of trimmed lettuce, stored for 6 weeks at 32° F, as from 42 pounds of untrimmed lettuce similarly stored.

It was also found that lettuce keeps better, after 2 weeks, if stored at 32° F than at 38°. And lettuce shipped and stored in polyethylene liners remains in better condition longer than if handled in any other way.

In the USDA tests, the green color of fresh lettuce was retained longer at 32° than at 38° F. In some lots lettuce at 32° remained green for more than 6 weeks. Lettuce stored at 38° was lacking in color after only 4 weeks. On the other hand, lettuce stored for only 2 weeks kept about equally well at 38° as at 32°.

Trimmed lettuce kept about equally well in sealed or unsealed polyethylene liners. Oxygen in sealed liners or wraps dropped slightly from normal, but no off-flavors or abnormal deterioration occurred at 32° F.

In untrimmed lettuce, the loose wrapper leaves were especially susceptible to breakage and decay. Removing them in the field saved space and weight in shipping and also eliminated considerable later trimming, increasing the percentage of edible lettuce shipped, reports the USDA.

Note to Editors: You may wish to hold this story for release at a season more appropriate for your State.

USDA 2948 (11-55)

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In All States

New or Unidentified Cattle Disease Reported From Scattered Areas

"There never is a holiday from the threat of disease in livestock," says

____________________. "As soon as one disease is conquered or control is in
(State or local authority)
sight, another disease springs up to take its place."

For the past 10 years or so, reports have been coming in of a new disease, or possibly of several related or similar diseases, in cattle. Such reports have become more frequent in the last year or so, and at least 20 States are now believed to be involved, according to ____________________.

In Iowa the infection is known as mucosal disease; in Colorado and California as red nose or upper respiratory infection; in Indiana as Purdue virus diarrhea, in New York as virus diarrhea, and possibly by other names in other States.

Some symptoms of these diseases are the same, others different in different areas. Affected animals show an acute high temperature, go off feed, and lose weight rapidly. In most cases diarrhea and mucosal discharge from the nostrils are also present. Mortality rates vary greatly among affected animals. Antibiotics have been directly helpful in only a few reported cases, though they are believed to be useful in combating secondary infections that may follow these diseases.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is working closely with State and private research organizations and State livestock regulatory officials in an attempt to find the cause or causes of these new or unidentified diseases, and to develop the means of controlling them. Two interstate conferences called by the Department's Agricultural Research Service this year brought to light evidence that these diseases may be much more prevalent and widespread than actual reports so far indicate.

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In All States

Control of Cattle Lungworm Sought by USDA

New hope for eventual control of lungworm disease in cattle arises out of recent research by U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

There is no satisfactory treatment for lungworms, but the USDA research indicates that it may be possible to provide an immunity by means of serum injections.

USDA researchers found that calves recovered from a lungworm infection had acquired an immunity against later attacks. One recovered calf was able to survive a reexposure to 750,000 lungworm larvae (immature lungworms), while a previously uninfected calf died 7½ days after a similar exposure. Resistance was found to last at least 7 months, but apparently it lessened with time. Age seemed to have nothing to do with increasing resistance.

The scientists tried to transfer immunity to susceptible calves by injecting serum taken from immune animals. Two calves survived infection with 50,000 lungworm larvae when they received 1½ pints each of serum from an immune calf. One received the serum at the time of exposure to the larvae; the other received the same dose 8 days later when symptoms of the disease became evident. Four other calves died of lungworm disease after similar exposure to the disease and smaller doses of serum.

The Department's Agricultural Research Service is now working to develop a practical means of producing active and lasting immunity to this frequently fatal disease of cattle.

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Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Good Management Will Prevent Parasite Disease in Chickens

That old ounce of prevention is the best way to control cecal coccidiosis, a common and serious disease of chickens, according to ______________________.
(State or local authority)

Cecal coccidiosis is caused by a microscopic parasite which chickens may pick up from contaminated soil, litter, water, or feed. When large numbers of the parasites get into the lining of the ceca (blind gut), they destroy cells and cause blood to ooze from the cecal lining.

In a typical outbreak--where large numbers of the parasite are present--some chickens die suddenly, there are bloody droppings on the ground or litter, and affected chickens have a ruffled, droopy appearance, pale combs, and eat or drink little or nothing. Other chickens in the brood may appear healthy.

Here are some good management practices suggested by ____ ________ to reduce numbers of the widespread, abundant, long-lived, and hard-to-kill parasite that causes cecal coccidiosis: (1) Raise young chickens apart from old stock. (2) Put each new brood of chickens into a clean house, with clean feeders and waterers and clean, new litter. (3) Keep litter dry--stir frequently and remove wet litter. (4) Place waterers on wire platforms over floor drains, keep feeders high enough to prevent fouling, and supply enough feeders to prevent crowding. (5) Clean feeders and waterers with hot water and detergent at least every week. (6) Get rid of carriers such as flies, rats, and mice around poultry houses and yards. (7) Fill in or drain any damp areas around the poultry house. (8) If you raise chicks on wire, clean the wire regularly.

When chickens are first placed on the ground or floor, severe coccidiosis may be avoided by dosing for several weeks with sulfamethazine, sulfaquinoxaline, sulfaguanidine, nitrofurazone, or nitrophenide in the feed or drinking water. Follow the directions which come with the drug from poultry supply houses, says ____________________.

In case of a suspected outbreak of cecal coccidiosis, your veterinarian or county agent can advise you about how to get a definite diagnosis and how to handle the outbreak.

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In All States

Farm Fillers

Soybeans are among the plants whose blossoming and fruiting are regulated by length of day and night. Since 1949, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and cooperating State experiment stations have developed 16 new varieties that mature with different night lengths to fit different latitudes. These varieties fall into several groups, each adapted to a cross-country belt about 100 miles wide. County agricultural agents can advise growers about which varieties are adapted to a particular region.

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Field curing is apparently a poor way to preserve alfalfa for dairy cows. A 5-year USDA study shows that putting alfalfa up as silage provides a more nutritive feed and results in higher-quality milk, with more carotene and vitamin A.

Barn-drying alfalfa hay with forced air is a good supplement to silage-making, the study showed.

Leaf losses for field-cured hay averaged 1.7 times greater than for barn-dried hay, and 2.7 times greater than for silage.

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In All States

Repellents Save Trees and Shrubs From Rabbit Damage

Rabbits often cause serious damage to trees and shrubs by nipping off shoots, branches, leaves, and buds, and by gnawing and peeling off bark. Wherever rabbits are numerous, trees and shrubs need some protection against them.

The most effective and cheapest way to prevent rabbit damage, says ______________ (State or local authority) (or the U. S. Department of Agriculture), is to paint or spray trees and shrubs with a repellent--a chemical preparation that will keep the rabbits away.

Several effective repellents have been developed by the Department of Agriculture for this purpose. These chemicals are harmless to plants, and the amount that farm animals may get from eating treated foliage is not likely to poison them.

The following commercial preparations containing these chemicals can be bought from insecticide and fungicide dealers: Black Leaf 40, a liquid sold as an insecticide; or Arasan, Arasan SF-X, and Tersan 75, powders that are sold as fungicides.

For application as a rabbit repellent, any one of these preparations can be mixed with a carrying agent to dilute it and make it stick to trees and shrubs in all kinds of weather. An asphalt water emulsion for this purpose can be purchased from almost any dealer in building supplies or petroleum byproducts.

One gallon of asphalt water emulsion, 1½ gallons of water, 1 pound of household detergent, and 1 quart of Black Leaf 40, thoroughly mixed, make 3 gallons of repellent paint. It can be diluted for a spray by adding 1 more gallon of water and a pint of Black Leaf 40.

One gallon of asphalt water emulsion to 2 gallons of water, plus 4 pounds of Arasan stirred in and mixed thoroughly, makes 3½ gallons of paint. This cannot be diluted for a spray.

One gallon of asphalt water emulsion to an equal amount of water, with 2 pounds of Arasan SF-X or Tersan 75 mixed in, makes 2¼ gallons of paint. To make a spray, dilute with another gallon of water and an extra pound of Arasan SF-X or Tersan 75.

Repellent should be applied to the trunk of the tree or shrub from the base to a point high enough to be out of reach of the rabbits. Remember the rabbits can feed higher when snow drifts about the plant.

Insecticide and fungicide preparations may be poisonous. Keep them out of the reach of children and observe all precautions on the label, says ____________.

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In All States

Yuletide Redeems the Lowly Mistletoe

Gather in the mistletoe. The season is almost here when this plant, that is otherwise a pest, becomes a boon to Yuletide celebrations. Thus the lowly mistletoe is redeemed from its normal role as a parasite which lives by stealing food and water from trees and shrubs that act as its unwilling hosts.

Following are some facts about this interesting plant taken from the Yearbook of Agriculture for 1953, entitled "Plant Diseases."

The name mistletoe is derived from the Saxon mistl-tan, meaning "different twig" an indication that the ancients recognized it as something apart from the branches of the host tree.

It was featured in the Greek, Norse, and Germanic legends as a plant vested with supernatural powers for good and evil. The Druids and other pagan peoples of Europe used it as a sacred emblem in their religious rites. The herbalists of the early Christian era claimed that mistletoe was once a forest tree but became dwarfed out of shame when its wood was used to make the cross at Calvary. They called it guidhel or all-heal and prescribed it as an antidote for poisons and a cure for falling sickness and epilepsy. Amulets made of the plant were often worn to ward off disease.

In the 18th century Carolus Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist, described and named the principal European species Viscum album. The early American settlers considered our leafy mistletoe of the East to be identical with the Viscum of their homeland, and thus it, too, became vested with much of the traditional symbolism that had developed about the European plant. Today it is highly prized for Christmas decorations.

The Christmas mistletoe of North America belongs to the genus Phoradendron. This genus was set apart from the Old World Viscum in 1847 by Thomas Nuttall, first director of the Harvard Botanical Gardens; the Greek origin of the name means "tree thief."

Most of the mistletoe for the Christmas trade is gathered in the forests of the Southern and Southwestern States where it is abundant in some localities and where it provides off-season income for agricultural workers.

Only in limited areas is it an actual threat to forest and shade trees.

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In All States

Winter is Good Time for Seasoning Timber

Contrary to popular belief, it is not when you cut timber, but how well you season it, that counts in getting the maximum value from posts, poles, and logs.

The common belief that timber should be cut "when the sap is down" is not supported by the facts, according to the United States Forest Service (or other authority). There is practically no difference in moisture content of green wood in winter and summer.

The Forest Service agrees, however, with the generally accepted theory that winter is a good time to cut timber because it will season more slowly at this time of year and with less checking (cracking) than during the warmer months. Also, insects and fungi which attack freshly cut wood are less active during the winter.

On the other hand, bark peels most easily in spring, and though it can be removed at any other time of the year, the labor and expense will probably be greater. Wood cut in the late spring and summer should be peeled when cut and piled openly on skids for seasoning, thus reducing opportunity for decay. In no case should the wood be allowed to lie in direct contact with the ground. Checking can be reduced somewhat by locating the piles in a shaded but dry place.

When proper storage or handling is impractical, winter cutting is best, says the Forest Service. By the time warm weather arrives, the wood will be partly seasoned and somewhat less susceptible to damage.

--------- USDA 3249-(12-55)

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In All States

Eliminate Dampness in Repairing Wood Decay

In repairing a wooden building damaged by decay, it is of primary importance first to determine the source of moisture that brought about the decay, and if possible remove it.

This advice comes from the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (or a State or local authority). Wood will not decay when it is kept dry, says _____ _____. To decay it must contain moisture in an amount greater than 20 percent of its dry weight. The decay is actually caused by fungi--tiny, threadlike plants which grow and carry on their destructive life processes only when sufficient moisture is present.

If the moisture condition in a damaged building cannot be fully remedied, the decayed parts should be replaced with a naturally durable type of wood or with wood that has been pressure treated with a wood preservative. Brushing, spraying, or soaking wood with a wood preservative is worthwhile if the wood will be subjected to occasional wetting only.

In replacing damaged wood, it is advisable to remove material for a distance of at least 2 feet beyond any evidence of decay, because wood usually is infected beyond the point where rot is apparent. If the source of moisture can be definitely eliminated, however, it is then necessary to cut out only such wood as has been rendered unserviceable.

To prevent decay in new wooden buildings, it is important to build with dry lumber and use building designs that will keep the wood dry, or if that is impossible use wood that has been pressure treated with preservatives.

As a general rule, no untreated wood should be placed within 18 inches of the ground. It is also bad practice to lay a floor of untreated wood directly on a brick, cinder, or concrete base at or below the soil grade line because the wood may absorb sufficient moisture to allow decay.

---------- USDA 3251-(12-55)

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All States

Washed Potatoes Outsell Unwashed in Marketing Experiment

Modern marketing services increase the price of food somewhat, but they also help to sell the product. This was demonstrated in a marketing study on potatoes carried out cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Pennsylvania State University in 12 Pittsburgh supermarkets.

Potato sales increased nearly three-fourths when washed Pennsylvania potatoes were offered in a combination display both in paper and in polyethylene bags, instead of the usual display of unwashed potatoes. Profits also increased--as much as 33 cents a bushel.

In each of two experiments, four methods of merchandising potatoes were tested. Oddly enough, when washed potatoes, with a 4-cent premium for washing, and unwashed potatoes were displayed separatedly, sales were not significantly different from usual (25 to 30 pounds per 100 customers). But a combination display of washed and unwashed potatoes, with the same price premium for washing, increased sales about one-third. About half the potatoes sold from this combination display were washed.

When the premium for washing was increased to 10 cents, sales from the combination display declined to only a little above the level for unwashed potatoes alone.

The best sales record--44 pounds per 100 customers--was chalked up for the display combining washed potatoes in window paper bags and washed potatoes in polyethylene bags.

Customers apparently desire different things in potatoes, it was concluded, and they are willing to pay a reasonable difference in price to obtain what they want.

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All States

Farm Fillers

Farmers have a fair idea of the damage from insects that attack crops above the ground, but knowledge of soil insects is scant. Yet the insects and related species that damage and destroy crops from below the surface of the soil--cutworms, wireworms, white grubs, rootworms, nematodes--may be among the most important of all insect problems from the standpoint of increased crop productions, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Control of wireworms on 60,000 acres of lima beans in California a few years ago increased yields nearly 25 million pounds, with a net increase in value of more than $4 million.

This age of travel affects livestock as well as people. It's an unsophisticated steer these days, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture, that hasn't lived in 2 or 3 States before heading for the packing plant.

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All States

Farm Fillers

Farmers are good customers of industry. According to figures from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, they used 16 billion gallons of crude oil last year--more than any industry. The spent $300 million for pesticides. They spent a billion dollars for fertilizer and lime. And in recent years they have bought 4½ million tractors and almost 700,000 corn pickers.

Since food generally exerts first claim on a family's resources, the efficiency of agriculture is important to industry and commerce, and to the economy in general. It is largely because of modern technology in agriculture, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, that consumers spend only 25 cents of their wage dollar for food, leaving 75 cents for automobiles, television sets, furniture, and other things so important to modern living. A less efficient agriculture would take a greater proportion of a city family's income.

In some lands the fight for food takes not only most of the manpower, but most of the income, too, leaving mighty little for those other items that industries produce.

Note to Editors: These are excerpts from a recent speech by Dr. M. R. Clarkson, Deputy Administrator, Agricultural Research Service

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All States

Farm Operators Must Pay Social Security Tax Before April 15, 1956

Self-employed farmers and ranchers can become eligible for insurance benefits under the social security law as early as April 1956 if they have earned as much as $400 from farming in both calendar years 1955 and 1956, __________________ reminds ______ farm operators.
(State or local authority) (area)

Along with this goes the responsibility to report earnings from farming and pay the 3 percent social security tax not later than April 15, 1956. The Social Security Administration has suggested that payments be made as early as possible after January 1.

The form for making a report and remitting the required tax for social security insurance (Schedule SE) comes with the Federal Income Tax Return, Form 1040. If your net earnings from farming were as much as $400 in 1955, you are obliged to fill out and file this return and pay the social security tax, according to __________, even if you do not owe any Federal income tax for 1955.

Older farmers--those 65 or over--can retire after March 1956 and start getting monthly old-age insurance payments if they have met the earnings requirements and paid their tax. Other farmers, regardless of age, will acquire family protection in the form of monthly payments to surviving dependents in the event of their death, provided they meet the same requirements.

In either case, the payment of the social security tax must accompany your income tax declaration or return. This responsibility is required by law.

Further information on social security taxes may be obtained at your nearest Internal Revenue Service office. Information about benefits can be obtained from your social security district office. If you do not know where these offices are, your postmaster can tell you, says______________.

USDA 3331 (12-55)

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Farmers and Other Small Woodland Owners Are Key to Nation's Future Timber Supply

How adequately this Nation is able to meet its future timber needs depends in large part upon farm woodland owners and owners of other small woodland tracts, according to ______________________________.
(State or local authority)

The Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture recently released a survey of United States timber resources. The results of this survey point to the 3.4 million farm forest owners and over a million other owners of small private forest tracts as the "key" to this country's forest problem.

A comparison of estimated United States timber needs by the end of this century with supplies that can be expected on the basis of present trends in forestry indicates that we will be considerably short of saw-timber needed to meet demand.

That's the problem, says ________________________. Here's how the small-acreage owner of forest land (farmer or other) figures in it.

Three-fourths of all commercial forest land is in private ownership. Only 13 percent is owned by the forest industries. Sixty percent of all our timber lands occur on farms and other private lands. Most of these 4.5 million forest ownerships are small in size, and 3.4 million of them are on farms.

Farmers and other small landowners lag behind public agencies and forest industries in maintaining and improving the growth and yield on their forest lands. Condition of recently cutover land is related to the size of the holding, with the smallest acreages faring worst. Yet these smaller holdings are a vital part of our total timber resources.

(more)

Bringing all our forest lands up to the level of productivity necessary to meet our foreseeable future needs calls for increased stocking through better forest practices and planting, better control of insects and diseases, and more complete utilization of cut timber. (Of timber cut in 1952, one cubic foot out of every four was wasted.) All these needs apply particularly to the small forests where present productivity is lowest.

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All States

Solar Energy May Become Source of Heat and Power for Farm Use

Heat from the sun (solar energy) may some day supplement electricity and other power sources in performing a great variety of farm tasks.

A solar energy "collector," developed by the Kansas Agricultural and Engineering Experiment Station, working cooperatively with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been used to supplement electricity in heating a house. It has also been used successfully to help raise the temperature of water in an electric water heater.

Other farm projects for which solar energy may eventually be used include: milk cooling, dairy water heating, hothouse and poultry-house air conditioning, vegetable storage conditioning, and grain drying. Used in conjunction with electricity or other power sources, solar energy could materially reduce costs of operation.

The collector developed in Kansas consists simply of a sheet of galvanized, corrugated metal roofing, painted black to increase its heat-absorbing capacity, and used as part of a roof or wall section. This device catches solar rays and transmits them to a layer of air underneath, sometimes raising its temperature by as much as 13 degrees Fahrenheit.

If such a collector were covered with glass, it would trap even more energy, say the Kansas and USDA scientists, because glass permits the sun's rays to penetrate to the metal and prevents escape of the infrared heat rays.

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Crossbred Lambs Have Greater Vitality, Give More Meat and Wool

Hybrid lambs that far outclass the finest strains of purebreds in meat and wool production and reduced death rates hold promise for the Nation's sheep industry, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

At the Department's Agricultural Research Center located at Beltsville, Md., two-way and three-way crosses of purebred Hampshires, Shropshires, Southdowns, and Merinos have outperformed parent stock in practically every factor important to sheep producers.

Beltsville researchers are convinced that the striking results achieved through crossbreeding make the production of hybrid lambs on a commercial scale a practical future prospect.

In seven years of testing two-breed crosses, the lambs produced have shown pronounced superiority in reduced mortality and in greater meat and wool production over purebred lambs from the same basic stock.

Three-way crossing, introducing Merino blood into the crossbreds to emphasize production of high-quality wool, was begun in 1951. Even greater general superiority has been shown by the three-way-cross lambs, but the Beltsville scientists feel that 4 years of breeding and testing are insufficient to give a true picture.

The experimental work at Beltsville is continuing. It is based on the use of purebred flocks, improved over the years until they have a fixed, high ability to produce meat and wool. The scientists emphasize the importance of maintaining purebred flocks of highest quality and efficiency for successful use either in pure breeding or commercial crossbreeding.
